



## **COMMUNITY INPUT**

### **Update for the Bond Election Advisory Task Force**

### **May 10, 2012**

This document is the seventh of regular updates to be provided to the Bond Election Advisory Task Force on community input received during the bond development process.

This report provides public comments and input received between April 23<sup>rd</sup> and May 8th, 2012 from the following sources:

- Comments provided via email sent to [bonddevelopment@austintexas.gov](mailto:bonddevelopment@austintexas.gov)
- Comments provided via the hotline (voicemail and texts) to 512-539-0060
- Comments provided via comment cards at two community forums (May 2<sup>nd</sup> at Akins, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Lanier)
- Comments provided during small and large group discussions during two community forums

The following comments were provided through one or more of those methods. (Organization of comments provided by staff.)

#### Bond Development Process—related comments

- Why have some projects received less support after the needs assessment?-- The city had to trim figures across the board for the package
- Wouldn't it be relatively inexpensive to go from a \$625 to \$727 and will you not have a higher range?-- Yes but we do not want to "low ball"
- Will task force recommendations be along categories?—Yes
- Compliments to BEATF
- Task Force Committee. This has been a farce that you are interested in something for each area of town. You have made up your minds long before this, meeting has been too rushed, your interest groups have had the most opportunity to talk.
- How did you take workshop input into consideration in recs? (A lot of weight).
- I'm disappointed that feedback from previous public forums (e.g. avg. \$s recommended by public for each project) was not made available in the packet. Diversity in populations the city is seeking feedback from is lacking.
- I had a question regarding adding a program to the current matrix. There is an upcoming May 2nd community meeting and I was wondering if we can add a program then? I am in the Sustainable Food Policy Board and would like to know when it would be a good time to give input on a program that is related to food accessibility?

#### Affordable Housing - related comments

- I support the affordable housing allocation being raised from 75 million to 110 million, with at least 20% of those funds allocated to permanent supportive housing. At the very minimum, the \$75 million funding level must be maintained
- The greatest opportunity to leverage City GO Bonds to capture additional funding at the state and federal level is through affordable housing. With City funding for housing, developers cannot apply for grants or loans from other sources because the City funding is the added layer of \$ that makes the deal financially feasible. Also, with the increase in population projected by 2030, the City will be in dire need of affordable units for our civil servants such as teachers, firefighters, the large service industry, etc.
- Allocate \$ for permanent supportive housing, a tent city type development for the working poor

- Keep as much funding as possible in affordable housing. Supportive housing for elderly and mentally ill must be emphasized. Austin has a growing elderly population that needs assistance.
- We need to first provide affordable housing for those that usually are helped last. Supportive housing for the homeless and or mentally ill must be invested in.
- Out of the affordable housing project what percentage has been proposed for the purpose of permanent supportive housing?
- Why is colony park receiving funding but not the Foundation Project on 11th street
- Supports \$110 million for affordable housing
- Echoes support for affordable housing. What will the 110 million be spent on? -- We will use the same process that was used for the 2006 bond money
- Ending homelessness
- Affordable Housing- transitional housing saved family. Affordable housing works.
- What does home repair cover? Will it help w/ gentrification?
- Concern about use of tax dollars particularly for affordable housing (abuse of tax \$).
- There is a need for affordable housing, esp. for chronically homeless. Benefits for investing in AH.
- \$110 M for AH needs be spread out to other needs.
- DAA support of PSH in downtown
- Suggest other funding sources for AH
- Great needs for affordable housing (5.6 billion)
- Growing need for affordable housing. People struggle to make ends meet need safe, affordable housing. Affordable housing is necessary for families to be self sufficient. Support for permanent supportive housing.
- Austin Sierra club. Connection between open space and Aff. Housing. Open space pays for its self. Make housing more affordable
- 3.) Support for affordable housing, particularly for the working poor. Living in the area for over 10 years, these are my priorities as a representative of 78753
- Please support 110 million for affordable housing- it only severs 1.96% of the present need, not counting future growth in population that will need affordable housing. Thank you for your hard work on this issue.
- Affordable housing in every neighborhood, Parks/Open space in every neighborhood, a grocery store in every neighborhood, safe bicycle routes to every school, and safe sidewalks in every neighborhood.
- Support permanent supportive housing as a big part of affordable housing. "Housing first" is most important for people who have housing barriers such as addiction and formerly imprisoned.
- Lack of access to affordable housing is a critical issue that many of our clients are currently facing. One Voice strongly endorses the Affordable Housing Bond Committee's recommendation for a \$110 million affordable housing bond package. This amount is essential to continue addressing the rapidly growing housing needs of low-income communities in Austin. According to the City's Community Inventory Report, housing prices in Austin have increased by 85% in the past ten years. In a poll conducted of Austin residents in 2008, 63% of respondents indicated that they are concerned that they or a loved one will be unable to afford a home in the city. And the most recent reports on the increase in affordable senior housing needs is indicative of the challenges we must face. We are aware that the City has prioritized the task of providing permanent housing for populations vulnerable to homelessness. We urge you to act on this priority through approval of the \$110 million bond package. One Voice Central Texas
- DAA letter in support of Permanent Supportive Housing,
- I am urging you to recommend the full measure of \$110MM for Affordable Housing in your important Bond Development work for the City of Austin. Other than food, there is no need more basic than housing. Parks and new buildings are a frivolity when compared with what can be the life and death nature of housing. Given the economy and real estate tax

increases, there are people in Austin being pushed to the margins in their housing, both in terms of affordability and location -- these go hand-in-hand. In addition, Austin is very far behind in dealing with the homeless issue; at the rate we are producing available, affordable units, and with a growing population, Austin will NEVER catch up to the need. The current need is 39,000 affordable rental units and approx. 1,900 permanent supportive housing (PSH) units, and a large proportion of those have to be affordable for people with incomes LESS THAN 30% MFI. There are a significant number of persons with disabilities in this sector with incomes of SSI at most (\$698/month), and the largest group (and those receiving the least attention over the past several decades) are our citizens with serious mental illnesses, many of whom cannot care for themselves. In the ECHO study conducted back in November, 2011, 48% of the most vulnerable homeless had mental illnesses; 34% also had substance use disorder; and 25% had both as well as a serious medical condition. The most vulnerable were defined as those that would likely die within 5 years without housing and other supports. Indeed, 138 homeless people perished on our streets last year, with more than 150 deaths in each of the 2 previous years. In an enlightened society, this is unacceptable! Due to their serious mental illnesses, these people are frequent users of our public services: EMS, ERs, mental hospitals, jails and prisons, courts and police services, all at high costs to us taxpayers, and extremely detrimental to the ill person who may not even recognize his/her illness because of the impairment in the brain (a condition known as anosognosia). In other words, the impaired brain can't see that it is impaired. These citizens require permanent supportive housing (PSH) with case management and other services; without it, they readily go off their medications and the cycle starts over again. My own son is a testament to the benefits of housing with appropriate support services, or a PSH model. He is 37 years old, has had serious mental illnesses for the past 12 years, and in the 3-year period following diagnosis, he cycled in and out of mental hospitals 13 times, at least 3 of those with stays of 3 months -- very costly to taxpayers and to him, as he has been very disabled. He needs a great deal of support in daily functioning. However, since our family placed him in housing with support services 9 years ago, he has not been hospitalized once. I encourage you to address the full range of housing solutions for high-need, extremely-low-income populations through the full funding of the Affordable Housing Bond Package.

- Homeless family's, (what's the face of homelessness, no one-everyone) much to my shock, my family and I were homeless. About 2 1/2 years ago unemployment cost us our vehicle, and apartment and finally the separation of us all. Having to live w/ family members. After so much time apart we united back and stayed in motels and hotels until we ran out of items to sell to pawn shops. Then it was in the car all 4 of us! Washing at Wal-Mart gas stations to prepare for job interviews. My wife found Backland Thanks be to God. They offered us transitional housing then affordable around the same time I got hired @ Costco. Already my family has benefited greatly w/Backlands help. my twins just were accepted by Breakthrough Austin programs that helps kids get to college & graduate. Please support groups like Backland.
- My children said enough about being homeless in letter they wrote. One was read at this meeting. Thank you so much for listening to my daughter's letter she read. Without help from places like Backland Transitional Housing programs, I don't know where we would have ended up,
- Affordable housing for all parts of Austin and very low income people. Cut Planetarium, Cut Mexic-Arte.
- Thanks for all your work on these issues. Mobility is important also, bikes, sidewalks, roads. Affordable housing in all areas. At this time we cannot support Mexicate or the Planetarium. Dougherty is also a luxury at this time. Elisabeth Nay--No. Nay. Again that community needs to pitch in.

#### City Facilities - related comments

- Public safety: another fire station is needed for onion creek area. A police substation is needed for dove springs. More police citywide! New police station

- Dove Springs area needs a police substation for safety. Residents are very concerned for their children and themselves. If there is known safety caution in the neighborhood, residents will be more active in the community.
- Police substation in Dove Springs area. Another Fire station in Southeast Austin in Onion Creek area
- Redesign of police department by lake.
- Southwest Section of Austin needs a full-fledged tennis facility. Thanks.
- Better support to community needs in Southeast Austin
- Cemetery renovations.
- Money distribution in South East Austin isn't equitable. Fire station in Onion Creek needs funding
- South East Austin police substation is necessary to match the recent increase in crime. Substations were supposed to be set up in communities to bring police and citizens closer together. Substations help officers make shift changes in a timely and efficient fashion. It was a cost cutting measure however, a recommendation has been made for a storefront.
- Support APD storefront in the 78744 area. There is a high crime rate and inadequate police presence.
- Crime & safety concerns specifically Dove Springs. APD Substation.
- Dove Springs substation
- Location of substations (many in W. Austin) -support for Dove Springs substation
- ADDL support to address crime rate in Dove Springs & River city foundation
- City Facilities. Concern of crime & public safety in SE Austin (Franklin) Dove springs. Would like to know how APD determines station. Crimes include; murder & violent crime Dove Springs has young population is future of Austin. 2nd citizen echoed statements above; need for police presence in Dove Springs area of Austin.
- City Facilities. 3rd citizen- Dove Springs crime rates-not safe. Gentrification is an issue-4th citizen asks for police presence in Dove Springs. Air operations unity; citizen feels Dove Springs substation is a higher priority than Air Ops. 3M is too much to spend b/c of politics.
- 2nd citizen discusses Air Ops. Unit & would prefer money to be spent on Dove Springs substation. Citizen appreciates help of task force w/ Dove Springs.
- Don't support APD Air operations it's redundant, use TXARNG facilities or sell helicopters.
- Redesign of police department by lake.
- Whereas it is the stated mission of the Library Commission to make recommendations to the City Council on matters relating to the establishment, maintenance, and operation of the public libraries, Whereas the City of Austin is engaged in the Bond Development Process in alignment with the Imagine Austin Vision, Whereas these critical library maintenance infrastructure projects, deferred by budget constraints of previous funding cycles need to be addressed, Whereas the staff of the Austin Public Library has followed the criteria of the guiding principles and funding criteria set forth by City Council to develop a prioritized needs assessment, Whereas the Library facilities must keep pace with increasing citizen use and growing population, Be it resolved, by the Library Commission, City of Austin, in a regular scheduled meeting on Monday, March 26, 2012 that the Library Commission support the Library Department's request for funding in the amount of \$8,042,0000 as presented to the City Facilities Committee of the Bond Election Advisory Task Force on Thursday, February 23, 2012, ranked in departmental order of priority, as the absolute minimum required for the operations and maintenance of the Austin Public Library. 1. Pleasant Hill Branch Library Roof Replacement and HVAC Upgrade (\$1,234,000) – The existing roof at the 8,300 SF Pleasant Hill Branch Library is original equipment dating from the time of original construction in 1985. Its deteriorated condition now requires that it be replaced with a new and sustainable, modified bitumen roof in order to protect the City's investment in real property at this 211 E. William Cannon Drive location. The failing HVAC system at the Pleasant Hill Branch Library is also original equipment dating from the time of the 1985 construction and must be replaced in its entirety. Completion of this pressing mechanical retrofit will enable the Library Department to provide dependable interior climate control once again for customers at this busy community library. 2. Renovation of the Will Hampton Branch

Library at Oak Hill (\$1,340,000) – The renovation of the Will Hampton Branch Library (5125 Convict Hill Rd.) will include replacement of worn exterior and interior finishes, furniture and equipment. The site's failed water quality ponds will be restored to compliant standards and xeriscape grounds improvements carried out. This project will also replace the failing roof on the 5,580 SF Will Hampton Branch Library at Oak Hill. The roof, which was installed during the 1997 construction of the facility, has suffered significant hail damage and other deterioration from weathering over the course of its existence. The new roofing components will consist of a reflective, 2-ply modified bitumen system with a granule surface, a partial standing seam roof, and a Kalwall system skylight along the central axis of the building.

3. University Hills Branch Library Parking Lot Expansion (\$1,022,000) – This project will provide for the acquisition of land, design and construction of much needed additional parking to enhance public safety at the increasingly busy University Hills Branch Library, located at 4721 Loyola Lane in East Austin. The University Hills Branch Library stands at 8,000 SF and was constructed in 1985.

4. Milwood Branch Library Renovation (\$1,066,000) – The renovation of the Milwood Branch Library (12500 Amherst Dr.) will include replacement of worn floor and other interior finishes. A general repair and repainting of the interior and exterior of the building, replacement of worn furniture and equipment, and re-engineering a failed waste water line on site. The Milwood Branch stands at 8,266 SF and was built in 1997.

5. Austin History Center Interior and Exterior Improvements (\$1,168,000) – The 36,000 SF Austin History Center (810 Guadalupe St.) stands as an historic building of landmark architecture, constructed in 1933 to serve as Austin's main library. The facility now serves the community as Austin's archival repository. Infrastructure upgrades at the Austin History Center will include wheelchair lifts replacement, lead-based paint abatement, waterproofing of exterior walls and restoring worn finishes. The project will address the need for a lighting retrofit to conform to current standards for safely exhibiting historic materials and will restore the exteriors of this significant building once more to a state of structural soundness and aesthetical attractiveness.

6. Zaragoza Warehouse Fire Sprinkler Upgrade (\$497,000) – To meet current building, fire and life safety codes, this project will retrofit the malfunctioning, 40-year old fire suppression sprinkler system at the 20,000 SF, wood-built Zaragoza Warehouse (635 N. Pleasant Valley Rd.), the Library Department's only storage facility.

7. Cepeda Branch Library Renovation (\$684,000) – The 8,110 SF Cepeda Branch Library (651 N. Pleasant Valley Rd.) was constructed in 1998 and has been used heavily by the East Austin community since its doors were first opened to the public. This project will restore the facility to its former attractiveness and usefulness for the community by replacing worn and deteriorated finishes along with dilapidated furniture, fixtures and faulty building systems.

8. Yarborough Branch Library Renovation (\$592,000) – The 15,120 SF Yarborough Branch Library (2200 Hancock Dr.) occupies the former Americana Theater building, which was constructed in 1965. This branch is one of Austin's most popular libraries, but has become an eyesore over the years from heavy use by customers. This project will renew the shopworn and faded interiors, furniture, fixtures and equipment for the benefit of the community.

9. Windsor Park Branch Library Renovation (\$439,000) – The 8,630 SF Windsor Park Branch Library (5833 Westminster Dr.) was constructed in 2000 and the community has made excessively heavy use of the building since the facility opened. This project will restore the facility to its former usefulness and attractiveness by replacing worn and deteriorated finishes, furniture, fixtures, equipment and building systems.

Total Cost of Submittal: \$8,042,000 Respectfully submitted by Wendy Price Todd, Chair, Library Commission

#### Parks & Open Space – related comments

- Open land acquisition for water purification in over-developed zones of the Edwards Aquifer
- Many investors will benefit from the Waller Creek improvements. The improvements are for the diversion of flood waters and runoff. There will be hardly any short term benefits for the investors
- Downtown parks are underfunded
- Support local tennis facilities and expand the Johnny-Morris facility

- A member of the Austin Alliance Board has stated that Palm park, Waterloo, and the Downtown Squares need support
- 1 million should be sent to the 3 main parks for a total expense of only 3 million for parks.
- Provide funding for parks on a per capita basis
- The Parents Society is concerned that the Elizabeth Ney recommended figure being too low. A more integrated approach is requested
- Not enough maintenance in cemeteries
- Support the BS bathhouse, Open Space
- What is the Dove Springs expansion specifically for?
- Clarification for money allocated to downtown parks, including Zilker.
- Dougherty Arts Center support
- Elisabeth Ney-Full Budget
- Cemeteries deferred maintenance concerns
- Unmet needs-operations parks dept. concern affects of tax increase.
- Parks & Open Space Violet Crown Trail & Open Space & Trails important partnerships for the city of Austin. Open Space & streetscapes- Franklin Park- concern for safety in the park.
- Additional question re: Dougherty Arts center. Wants to know what plans are for the current center.
- Dougherty Arts center interested in knowing what 2 million funding will be applied to. Would like center to be improved and stated importance to community. Would like to know why building wouldn't be rebuilt when funding will be available for a new facility.
- Support: open spaces initiative.
- Soccer community encourages more open space for fields, aren't enough to fields to support soccer in Austin.
- DAC- Facility sits on top of an old landfill. EPA Involved. Can't afford to lose \$ producing facility that serves many, many people. Funding is needed to build new facility, tear down old facility, and remediate land. Children can't play outside of building. High demand for DAC spaces.
- Cemeteries - Funding needs to be restored to \$4M request
- DAC is only affordable community facility and needs \$9M or more.
- Support for Elisabeth Ney and Mexic-Arte
- DAA Support for Downtown squares \$ (\$2M). Will help leverage private \$ for squares.
- Support for \$1M each to Palm & Waterloo Parks
- Want downtown developers to contribute \$ for downtown parks
- Irrigation systems for heritage trees at Zilker, other metro. parks, and in cemeteries
- Daugherty Arts center is frequently used and needs support. Plans to close Dougerty arts center will bring down the community if implemented. Cost 1.7 million to tear down DAC, cost to build a new one 6 million. Possible facility at Camp Mabry. Austin based artists echo sentiments of DAC. The DAC is affordable and has great child programs.
- Gus Garcia Rec Center is depended on and needs to be expanded. Money considered for a trail not expansion.
- Cut new facilities on Seaholm powerplant. Put under city facilities, it is wrong to take \$ from Parks and Open space.
- Support Hispanic area from republic square to plaza saltillo
- We need pocket parks & water quality land open space.
- Zilker bathhouse renovation allocation is fine if only for this bathhouse.
- Approval of Zilker clubhouse
- Public showers.
- Brownie park needs funding for lighting, security & access.
- ASR for full funding for rebuilding Dougherty Arts
- Advocates for full funding of Dougherty, Mexic Arte, Elisabeth Ney.
- Men's soccer Assn increase open space \$ allocation leverage public/ private partnerships
- Dougherty Arts 3rd highest revenue for PARD. Serves 200K per yr. EPA can condemn, need help urgently.

- ANC- support for 2 projects, Montopolis center, 12 st. improvements (not in current TF proposal)
- Austin Sierra club. Connection between open space and Aff. Housing. Open space pays for its self. Make housing more affordable
- Austin cemeteries need restoration badly pls. fund at \$4mil.
- Please reexamine your recommendation for the Dougherty Arts Center it must be truly funded.
- 2.) Support for Brownie Park on Brownie Dr. We need to see back taxes issue on recently donated land increase size of park, through either tax waiver or some other expediting measure
- 1.) Support Montopolis Community Bldg (parks report needed) 2.) Oppose Seaholm intake Facility. Not really belongs under parks. Takes away from real needs of parks Dept. and should be moved to another category.
- I want to see Daugherty be built in order to accommodate the camps for all economic groups of children and for artist and performing arts. My daughter dances there 2-3 times per year. The city concession is needed for the City and upkeep.
- We don't need a bathhouse on the south bank of Barton Springs. We need more water quality open space land by fee simple purchase and/ or conservation easements
- Support maintenance of parks and green space in general. Support Gus Garcia rec Center improvements. Only open a few years & well utilized. Welcome the community garden plan!
- I support the Parks and Open Space committee to fund 2 million towards the 3 downtown squares. These funds will encourage other groups (DAA, Parks Foundation) to further fund critical improvements of lighting and irrigation. I also support the committee recommendation for funds to palm and waterloo parks. Public investment in public projects urge these and the Waller Creek Trail produce multiple ROI or 4-14 million of private investment for \$1 of public money. In these difficult economic times, we have to find investments that we can leverage with other groups to realize the total objective. Thank you so much for your extraordinary service!
- We need enough money to both remediate the waste site under the building and rebuild on a new clean site. Consultants fired by the City in 2010 said they would be over 6.9 million & at their point in estimated at 9-10 million
- My name is Freddy Carnes. I'm a director, writer, musician, teacher, and composer. The Dougherty arts center has been an affordable and unique theater that had allowed me to develop new, original musicals and work with amazing artists and audiences. I also work as a teacher for theatre action project and I see the impact of the arts on children and the Dougherty arts school is an affordable source of arts education.
- The Dougherty Arts Center is an essential component of Austin's art community. In order for the smaller performing groups to produce projects affordable theatre space is paramount. Not to mention that so many people would become unemployed if it were to disappear (cityworks, art teachers, etc.)
- Dougherty Arts Center: need full funding for a new building and would like it centrally located. It's wonderful next to Butler Park because the staff and patrons can use both. Keep after school programs and summer camps--the affordable, quality childcare is amazing and why I love Austin. Participate in the NPP (neighborhood partnering?) program and it's been a great experience. Please fund--it helps neighborhoods come together and become more open, friendly, and above all safe.
- Concerned about the Dougherty not having enough funding to be re-built if and when the current building is demolished due to contamination. Full funding of the original \$9 million originally proposed is needed to do this. The DAC offers affordable classes to all ages along with affordable rental space for artists. It's also a place for artists to show their work free of charge. The DAC currently is one of the highest revenue earning buildings in the Parks Department.
- I recognize that explicit funding for the Walnut Creek Trail System is not included in this proposal, but I would still like to advocate for it, specifically for "trail connectivity" and general "park acquisition" funds to be applied to connecting the north and south Walnut Creek

projects currently being developed Support trail connectivity! We all need to get outdoors and children especially need safe ways to enjoy mobility with their friends and parents.

- Additional comments regarding the Dougherty Arts Center are that it is one of the few, if only, galleries in Austin that doesn't gouge artists who show their work in it. It also brings in a lot of money for PARD through class tuition. Again, the building is available to a wide variety of artists, age groups, and socio-economic groups. If the new building is not just a replacement, but also an expansion of what we offer now, the DAC can offer more classes and jobs for the creative class. From my understanding the DAC doesn't get back in funding what it puts into the PARD funds. However, other PARD facilities that are in less disrepair are getting funding.
- The Austin Soccer community would like to invest in the Walnut Creek sports complex. We currently have a public partner relationship with City at Onion Creek soccer complex--we would like to have the same opportunity at WCSC. Austin has 25k soccer players of all ages. We need additional fields at this time. The City only has 20 fields--we need at least 60 fields to accommodate the players. Thank you, the Austin Men's Soccer Association, 795-8538.
- I represent the official position of the Rosedale Neighborhood Association. The RNA supports full funding of PARD needs assessments for replacement and repair of existing park facilities, especially those that cannot be funded piecemeal due to their scope, such as replacement or refurbishment of play spaces, pools, restrooms, and major recreational facilities. PARD needs an adequate revenue stream to establish an ongoing, fully funded program of addressing deferred maintenance and facility debt. Jeff Archer, RNA Steering Committee
- Prioritize buying more Barton Springs Watershed preserve lands over new or renovated buildings at Zilker Park. Specifically please do not fund a new bathhouse or any new development in Zilker Park.
- Hi I am just calling to say that I don't see enough money in this bond package for the Dougherty Arts Center to be rebuilt. And the Dougherty is serving 200k people a year, 40k of those are children. These programs are full within an hour and a half of registration opening for the year. These are in really high demand, and we just really can't lose these programs. We need this bond money to be increased as soon as possible before the EPA shuts the building down. It's been built on a landfill and it's only a matter of time before it's shut down. Thank you.
- The fabric that makes Austin creative, unique and strong. Long live the DAC!!!!!!
- Please save the Dougherty Arts Center! It needs full funding and should not be left in the dust. It is a vital connection to the arts for the entire city.
- Please continue year is the support the full support for the Dougherty Arts Center as it has a wonderful facility and provides great cultural benefits to the Austin community. Thank you!
- Rehearsal space and rented the theatre. The DAC is an affordable and much-needed arts space as well as a school. It's demolition would be a terrible I am writing to protest about the proposed closure of the Dougherty Arts Center. Over the past few years I and my family have attended art classes, use doss to the arts community. Lorella Loftus
- We need more bond \$ to rebuild the Dougherty! 10.3 million!
- Hello, my name is Ivory Newsome, you can respond to me at ivrynewsome@yahoo.com, that's my email. I am calling concerning the Dougherty Arts Center, I understand it is slated for demolition and I am deeply upset about that. I just heard that information and I had planned to attend one of those meetings. As a local professional artist, it's one of the venues that's easily rentable for the company I work with, it's no cost, it does children's program, there's a preschool, there's an art gallery, it's a gem of the community that was started by a lady of the community that should honestly be rebuilt and supported wholeheartedly by this bond election. Even as far as an ongoing budget, this gem should be saved. I intend to come to one of those meetings to make sure this is said in person, but again, I would like an email response--I've given you info. Thank you and I will look forward to hearing that the arts center has been saved. Thank you.
- I'm calling with concerns about the Dougherty Arts Center which is slated for demolition and not enough funding to rebuild. There's so few venues like that in Austin for people and I have



used the Dougherty Arts Center many times, as have my kids. So I am just requesting we have full funding so rebuilding can be an issue. If you can, call me back at 345-0720, and my name is Gwen Cederholm. Thank you.

- Please count me in; I live out by the lake in Austin but have witnessed so many people helped through the DAC, and I think it should be fully funded; it would be a tragedy to move this venue that helps so many people, so count me in as full funding for the DAC, thank you
- Hey, I just want to leave my comment that the Dougherty Arts Center is an incredibly valuable resource for the community and if the building has problems, fix the building, but I don't see why tearing it down is going to make the programs better. There's just going to be a huge delay while you move them around someplace, maybe not reopen center in any form. This is a great resource and this town needs more art and less developers, so can't we save the plan? Thank you.
- Environmental Board approved motion to recommend to support Bonds for open space land
- Thank you for your decision to include Red Bud Isle Park in your consideration of possible allocation of funds within the Parks and Recreation Department request.

My name is Kyle Allen, I am the lead coordinator for the volunteer group, Friends of Red Bud Isle. Our group is one of the most active volunteer groups in Austin and had the largest turnout of any "It's My Park Day" event in 2012. We have accomplished a great deal at the park with our volunteer efforts, but there are several projects that are beyond what our sweat equity and fundraising efforts can accomplish.

As you are probably aware, Austin has a shortage of off-leash areas for dogs. Red Bud Isle is the only OLA in West Austin. It is very popular. So much so that the demand far exceeds the supply of legal parking. During a three month period last Summer, over 700 parking violations were issued!

Other needs include the development of a Master plan that encompasses irrigation, invasive species removal, erosion control, shoreline stabilization.

We Love our Dogs and we Love this park. Please help us keep it a jewel of Austin!

- Please open more parking spaces for the dogs.
- Every Saturday morning, Charlie, our goldendoodle, wakes us up, because somehow he knows that it's Saturday and we go to Red Bud Isle on Saturday. It's a beautiful park – one we bring out of town guests to as well. It's also the equivalent to "Disneyland for dogs". So joyful and peaceful to see the dogs, the water, the beautiful trees, etc. Over the last year, parking has become a big issue, with 5-6 cars often lined up waiting for a parking space. I do believe that the addition of just 10-14 new spaces would address the issue – and take the stress out of coming to the park and not being able to park our car. Please prioritize parking spaces at the park. It is such a lovely place and adds greatly to the quality of our lives – and certainly to the quality of Charlie's life!
- Please find attached the 2012 Parks and Recreation Board recommendations for parks and open space bond funding. The prioritization of projects was based on what the board feels are the department's most pressing needs which are 1) to fund near-term needs projects, 2) to take care of existing facilities, and 3) to ensure a healthy program for urban parks acquisition and development.

Explanation of PARB Priorities

Priority One □ fund priority projects (with an emphasis on geographic equity):

PARB staff has identified key projects that it has defined as having "priority" status. We support the funding of those priorities. Given the constraints of the budget however, those not identified as priority projects were not supported for funding.

There are however a few exceptions: Although they are not listed as priority projects we also support the following projects as they will help to support geographic equity within the list of proposed project.

- Onion Creek Metropolitan Park Master Plan and Phase I Improvements
- Colony District Park – General Park Improvements
- Civitan Neighborhood Park – General Park Improvements

- Meadows at Trinity Crossing Neighborhood Park – General Park Improvements
- St. Johns pocket Park – General Park Improvements

Priority Two: take care of existing facilities

Following closely from the first recommendation we also support PARD's assessment of infrastructural and facility improvement needs. These facilities are critical for the healthy functioning of our existing parks and the programs that are provided there.

Priority Three: support land acquisition and development

After funding support for priority and facility related projects our third priority recommendations is to ensure that adequate funding goes to the acquisition and development

of new, accessible parks. Growth within the city continues at a rapid pace. Without pursuing land acquisition now we will lose key opportunities to develop both urban parks and the lands needed for water quality protection. In particular we see the need to act quickly for land purchases along the Airport Boulevard corridor and around the Riverside area. Both of these areas were identified as gap areas for neighborhood parks and both areas are undergoing large

urban master planning processes. Without land purchase efforts now, we will lose the opportunity to buy and develop land in these critical areas within the city.

These three priorities identify what we as a board recognize as the fundamental needs of our parks system today. There are of course numerous other projects that need attention as well. We have listed suggested funding for those remaining items in the final section of the attached spreadsheet.

- If a specific line item (Red Bud Isle \$1.5m) is not shown in the recap, has it been cut and will no longer be considered in the process moving forward?
- Please know that Norwood Dog Park is an extremely unique and wonderful gathering place for Austinites and their dogs. My dogs and I use it frequently and would be very sad if it were unavailable.
- As a long-time citizen of Austin, The Dougherty Arts Center has been a landmark and constant reminder of this City's commitment to easily accessible arts. It's classes and gallery are amazing, and I couldn't imagine Austin without them. My daughter attended the preschool program this year, and it provided her invaluable exposure to visual and performance arts, all at an extremely affordable cost. We hope the City recognizes the Center's immense contribution to the culture of Austin and supports continuing its presence.
- I am a dancer and choreographer in Austin and have performed at the Dougherty Arts Center several times over the years. The center is vital to the arts in Austin. Please consider saving the building or rebuilding it! It is important to us as artists and as audience members.
- I am writing to express my concern and sadness about the possible demolition of the Dougherty Arts Center. With the arts being cut in public schools, the beloved DAC provides a cozy venue for families to experience the arts. I have taken my children to see the Austin City Ballet's annual production of "The Nutcracker" for years. We have also enjoyed other performances by the Austin City Ballet such as "Snow White," "Sleeping Beauty," "A Midsummer's Night Dream" and numerous others. The cost is drastically lower than other performing arts venues (\$50 for other Nutcrackers vs \$15 for the Austin City Ballet's show). I would not be able to afford for my family to experience the arts if this venue was gone. The art gallery at the DAC is also a jewel for local artists as they can show their art free of charge. My family has also enjoyed experiencing art in this gallery. I understand environmental issues related to the property, but passionately ask for you to please consider not tearing down the DAC until the funds are available for renovating or replacing it with a venue that is rented at a low cost so all people in Austin are able to enjoy it. As the DAC brings in revenue for the city of Austin, and provides an affordable venue for a variety of artists, I cannot understand why it would be demolished before the funding is secure. On a historical note, much of "old Austin" seems to be disappearing. Keeping "jewels" with history is much for interesting than building a new building. Please consider saving the Dougherty Arts Center.

- The Dougherty Arts Center has to be re-built before it gets shut down by the EPA! \$4 is not nearly enough to remediate the land fill underneath it and re-build on a new site. We need \$10.3 million! Please increase! We have no co-development available!
- We have been using the Dougherty Arts Center as a rehearsal space for our theatre since 1989. While I understand that it will be demolished for a number of reasons, Austin needs an arts space like the DAC. While the space is modest, we have rehearsed hundreds of shows for thousands of hours in its tiny classrooms.  
Thousands of VORTEX artists have rehearsed at the DAC during this time, and then gone on to perform the work that we created there for tens of thousands at The VORTEX. It has served as an anchor for our sponsored projects and renters as well. Most importantly, the Dougherty Arts Center has helped us with rehearsal space for our Free Summer Youth Theatre. For 21 years, SYT has used the DAC for about half of the rehearsals for the free program that serves Central Texas teenagers every year.  
The theatre itself has provided an affordable venue for many companies that could not otherwise afford to present their work.  
The gallery shows are always innovative and enlightening. I strongly support the re-construction of the DAC or another Arts related Parks and Rec building so that all of these activities can continue.
- We have been using the Dougherty Arts Center as a rehearsal space for our theatre since 1989. While I understand that it will be demolished for a number of reasons, Austin needs an arts space like the DAC. While the space is modest, we have rehearsed hundreds of shows for thousands of hours in its tiny classrooms.  
Thousands of VORTEX artists have rehearsed at the DAC during this time, and then gone on to perform the work that we created there for tens of thousands at The VORTEX. It has served as an anchor for our sponsored projects and renters as well. Most importantly, the Dougherty Arts Center has helped us with rehearsal space for our Free Summer Youth Theatre. For 21 years, SYT has used the DAC for about half of the rehearsals for the free program that serves Central Texas teenagers every year.  
The theatre itself has provided an affordable venue for many companies that could not otherwise afford to present their work.  
The gallery shows are always innovative and enlightening. I strongly support the re-construction of the DAC or another Art related Parks and Rec building so that all of these activities can continue.
- DAA letter in support of Design of New Projects, East Sixth Street Streetscapes Improvements, IH-35 Improvements, Street Reconstruction Program, (see attached letter)
- I am writing to voice my request for the following: \$3 million for the Violet Crown Trail which will connect over 100 miles of trails in central and south Austin, And \$175 million for parks and open space. Also of critical importance is the Mopac Bicycle Bridge at Barton Creek Phase 1 and 2. As a newer Austin resident, I believe that one of the primary aspects that makes this city so attractive, unique, and healthy, is the focus on conserving green space and providing access for Austin citizens and visitors to well-kept parks, trails, and pedestrian/bicycle transportation methods. It is crucial that we continue to place emphasis on building and maintaining these green places and open spaces so that we can continue to boost a beautiful, clean, healthy, and environmentally conscious city.
- Please use the money for open spaces and the violet crown trail.
- Even though I cannot attend, I think it is important that you know that my family, wife and our kids and grandkids here in Austin, actively support the following projects: Parks & Open Space (\$175M);
- Austin is growing and will continue to grow. Without funds to purchase and manage parks and open space our quality of life here will be seriously degraded as population and development overwhelm existing facilities. I support \$175 million for parks and open space.
- Dougherty arts center is an incredible resource for our community. My children have attended great summer camps there and I was able to fulfill a life-long dream of learning to make pottery, all at an affordable price. Please provide adequate funding to support

rebuilding the center. It adds so much for Austin families and for our quality of life. Please don't take it away.

- Dougherty certainly deserves to be saved. It contributes greatly to the committee in so many ways. I have been taking art classes there for many years and would hate to see it disappear.
- As a parent of a child that spent many evenings over several years rehearsing and performing at the DAC with the Austin City Ballet, I am VERY saddened to hear of this. Having an inexpensive venue to accommodate the groups that do not have the financial means to perform in other facilities is crucial to the City of Austin. Because of my daughter's ability to have the DAC to perform in, she was able to gain so much from this experience that has molded her into the young, confident, and productive woman she is becoming. I urge you to maintain a facility that can accommodate groups of all financial abilities to encourage the growth of providing a sound foundation in the ARTS. Research shows that children exposed to the ARTS perform better in school.
- Please note my support for the proposed bond issues.(trails and parks)
- Please consider that the Dougherty art Center is a very important venue for all artists in the Austin Community.  
If the city values a thriving art community...it needs to value the venues that allow artists to thrive and show work.  
Please, please take care of this venue's future.
- Please rebuild the Dougherty!!! Support this community theater and provide full funding!
- I write to express my support for the most generous possible bond support for trails and open space acquisitions. These costs only become higher with time, and I think that experience has shown us that the recreational assets and water quality protections that they provide pay for themselves many times over. In particular, I'd like to see \$3 million for the Violet Crown Trail and \$175 million for parks and open space.
- I oppose any more development at Barton Springs Pool – specifically a South Bathhouse.
- Please rebuild DAC. This facility is important to local artist of all mediums and the community it serves.
- I am writing to express support for the Dougherty Arts Center to have all the funds it needs to stay open for all its programming, without pause, and receive full funding for the new building. My daughter currently attends an aftercare program at DAC. The quality of the programming is unsurpassed. We have tried other programs and they simply do not compare. I have lived in Austin since 1987 and have looked forward to the day that I could send my child to DAC. It is part of the fabric of Austin and should not be left to starve to death. I am happy to speak to anyone on this subject. I am unable to attend one of the meetings, but I definitely want my VOICE HEARD, LOUD AND CLEAR. Thank you.
- I live in Austin, I vote, and I want to express my profound support for STRONG funding to rebuild the Dougherty Arts Center. This Center provides an absolutely IRRELPLACEABLE civic benefit, and is a cornerstone of our South Austin community. It benefits all Austinites, but in particular the Arts Community. The funding in the current draft proposals is insufficient to build a comparable facility to what we have now, and the fact that Dougherty not only brings in significant money but also serves so many should be reason for your task force to reconsider this, and budget a significantly larger amount into the bond proposal. We need MORE funding for Dougherty!!! Thank you for your time and the work you do.
- I swim daily at Barton Springs Pool, year round, and am writing to ask you please help stop the proposed construction of a new bath house on the bucolic south side of the pool! When you, the City of Austin's Bond Election Advisory Task Force, are deciding on projects and programs which will receive potential bond funding, please advocate against the proposal of funds for construction of a new bathhouse on the south side of the pool being included in bond package. We don't need more construction or man-made structures on the south side. The Master plan and City Council specified that the south side should be designed in as natural a way as possible. Other priorities are more important, BSP already spent \$6M in master plan projects, other parks need funding, large majority of BSP community opposed the south bathhouse, it's a small group's pet project not a real need, and it will bring destruction to the pool. A few weeks ago PARD was asked if there is funding included in the

bonds for a BPS south bathhouse, extending the pool and renovation of the north bathhouse (moving the entrance to the rotunda and reshuffling a few rooms). PARD explained that included in the bond package is a line item for \$30M for all metropolitan parks, including Zilker. For Zilker, there are many projects but NOT a south bathhouse or any other master plan long term projects. The Friends of Barton Springs Pool advocated to the Bond citizens task force to add the south bathhouse. They are a small special-interest group that masquerades as an advocacy organization for the pool. They do not represent most of the swimmers and patrons of the pool. They have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars and there is no sign that has been spent in any way to help the trees or to preserve the natural beauty of the pool other than to buy donuts and coffee for well-meaning volunteers. Their advocacy of the BSP Master plan does damage to the pool. We can undo this by advocating against it right now. Please, advocate for irrigation for the Polo Fields trees and the Rock Gardens. Don't advocate for tree maintenance because other tree maintenance can't be paid with bonds. The BSP north bathhouse remodeling is included as a separate line item in the PARD bond package, listed as a long term need for \$2.25 M. Please, advocate against this one as well. There are other priorities and PARD already remodeled the bathhouse to comply with code and ADA regulations, the remaining proposed work is fluff. Please, advocate against this large amount for the total bond package. Ask for \$100-200 M max. The minimum urgent needs total was \$400M but many of the "urgent" needs were not that urgent, so the package could be easily be narrowed down to a smaller amount. Propose that the bond package be small, and more bond packages be proposed yearly, so that the city can keep up with the projects. City staff would not be able to manage all of these proposed projects if they got the bond funding. They will need to hire more people (lots more people) but the bond money doesn't pay for that. New staff is included in the budget that comes from the city fund.

- I'm writing to support fully funding the DAC. This community resource is wonderful, in the right place, and deserves the support of the City of Austin. I can't believe there is even the idea of removing it, or putting it elsewhere. The DAC is utilized by all age groups, from preschoolers to the elderly. The DAC has taught my entire family more about art. Giving it up would be a loss to our city, and I am tired of watching the city abandon things the citizens actually use.
- NO, NO, NO new bathhouse on the south side! PLEASE don't ruin our beautiful south shore! NO, NO, NO!!! Please advocate against the proposal of funds for construction of a new bathhouse on the south side of the pool being included in bond package. We don't need more construction or man-made structures on the Southside. The Master plan and City Council specified that the south side should be designed in as natural a way as possible. Other priorities are more important, BSP already spent \$6M in master plan projects, other parks need funding, large majority of BSP community opposed the south bathhouse, it's a small group's pet project not a real need, and it will bring destruction to the pool. Stop the madness! Please!!!!
- My family and I live in the Zilker neighborhood and the Dougherty Art Center is a tremendously valuable resource for our neighborhood and the entire city of Austin. My daughter is about to spend her second summer at Dougherty at the day camp. I personally waited in line for 2 hours to register my daughter for the camp because of the excellent programming and convenience.  
I wholeheartedly agree that the facility should be demolished because of its age and the associated environmental issues. But I beg you to recommend full funding (\$9 million or more) in the upcoming bond package to rebuild an ever better, spacious and light-filled Dougherty (with better parking) on the same site. The location is so convenient for parents who work downtown and for people like me who in South Austin, where city rec centers are far and few. What's more, it is my understanding that a children's art park is planned at Town Lake Park and summer campers make excellent use of the adjacent park facilities.
- I am writing to you in opposition of the new bath house on the South side of Barton Springs. We do not need a second bathhouse, I would like the south side to remain as it is. Please take it out of the bond package. I support the renovation of the bath house by the main

entrance. I am a frequent swimmer at Barton Springs, and as a resident of Barton Hills I use the South Entrance.

- I am a daily swimmer at Barton Springs pool, a Zilker neighborhood resident, small business owner, and active voter/citizen. I urge you not to fund the bath house on the south lawn of BSP. There is no place and no need for it. Feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this in more depth.
- Although I cannot attend the task force meeting this evening, as a regular swimmer and neighbor on the south side of Barton Springs pool, I would like to go on record as opposing the funding for construction of a bathhouse on the south side. Please preserve this treasure in as natural a state as possible without obstructing the view or endangering any of the old trees with man-made structures or oversized "art installations". There are no doubt countless better ways to spend those funds and the bath house on the north side is perfectly adequate for the needs of swimmers visiting the pool. I would suggest a walkway to get down the hill is all that is needed.
- I am writing to express my most deep concerns about this plan to build a bath house on the south lawn of the Barton Springs Pool area. I do NOT want this to happen. Please just leave the area alone and preserve the serenity and peace of that lawn area. Barton Springs pool is like a Church to me so I get very upset when anyone tries to change something that isn't broken. Please stop this plan to build anything new on the Barton Springs pool property ever, especially this bath house.
- This is to inform you that I am OPPOSED to the above-mentioned construction at BSP. I am also OPPOSED to the remodeling of the northside bath house. South Bath House: The south side of the pool has already suffered through sufficient construction; any additional work will detract even more from the pool's natural beauty. This construction is not a "real need". As we face probable years of drought ahead, priorities are irrigation, especially for the Polo Field trees and the Rock Garden. Please do NOT include this unnecessary item to the bond package. North side bath house remodel: This item is not a priority! The current facilities meet ADA regs and are code-compliant. Please focus on items necessary for keeping this pool and its current surroundings healthy and natural.
- The Dougherty Art Center needs to continue to serve the central Austin art community. It has a historic presence that fills the needs for affordable children and adult art programming in the city.
- Please don't build this new bathhouse! The present bathhouse is recently remodeled, & Parks has many other priorities for the millions this would eat up. The south lawn should stay uncluttered.
- It has come to my attention that the DAC is slated for demolition. I think that is very unfortunate, as the DAC provides so many services to so many people of Austin. The DAC also encourages the average person to create by having a variety of classes available in the evenings and weekends. I took a watercolor class there last year and although I've never considered myself to be artistic, it helped me see myself in a different light and express myself in a way that I don't usually have the opportunity to in my daily life. Please keep this facility operational. I know that many people, especially children and local artists would be at a loss without this wonderful asset to the Austin community.
- For several years, our daughter's dance company utilized the Dougherty Arts Center for their performances. They perform the Austin Children's Nutcracker every year near Christmas time and multiple Spring and end-of-year performances. While volunteering and participating at these events, the Dougherty Arts Center had birthday parties, classes and students just working on their art. Not to mention the art in the lobby that is displayed for purchase. The Dougherty Arts Center will be a permanent fixture in our family's memory for the wonderful times we had there. Our daughters are now grown and no longer dance at the dance company, but we still enjoy attending performances and reviewing the art on display. It would be shame to take yet another true Austin facility away from Austin. This type of facility is the foundation of our city. Please make careful consideration about the decisions you are making and that you are making the decisions for the right reasons.

- I'm writing to express my support for the allotment of \$3 million for the Violet Crown trail and \$175 million for parks and open space in Austin. I came to Austin two years ago from San Francisco, where Golden Gate Park and the Presidio trails enabled me to enjoy nature within the confines of one of America's densest cities. I moved to Austin in order to experience a more relaxed pace of life, and I've certainly found that in the people and culture. However, Austin's parks and trails are in a sorry state compared to those of San Francisco, and I can't hike the greenbelt without encountering washed out trails, confusing side trails, and a surprising amount of trash.  
The loss of a pleasant daily hike has certainly impacted my quality of life here. More importantly, I believe that as Austin grows and rises to prominence amongst American cities, it would be shameful if we become nothing but a sea of condos interspersed with several neglected parks.
- I am just reading this email on the Barton Springs user group list serve. It appears as if there is consideration for several items on the bond proposal, one at least was removed from the plans after agreement was reached that it was not needed and would harm the feel / vibe of the south side. I am specifically referring to the proposed bath house on the south side of Barton Springs.

Both the master plan and the city of Austin agreed to leave the south side as natural as possible. I have been watching all this for yrs and am shocked that someone snuck it on the list after all this apparent agreement.

On the bathhouse and movement of the entry on the north side. We just remodeled the bath houses and the entry does not need to be moved. In addition the round entry area was just opened as an exhibit, if we did this all that money would be wasted.

There are other higher priority needs in the park such as tree irrigation in the polo field and rock garden areas. Not to mention other parks in the city that are in much more need for just general maintenance.

We need to keep the bond proposal down to a minimum of what is really needed during this time when so many things are tight on the city budget.

- I am opposed to any further construction on the south side of Barton Springs pool.  
It is not needed!

From what I understand, most people involved are against it; apparently only a few people want more construction on the South Side, a minority.

I am against the proposal of funds for construction of a new bathhouse on the south side of the pool being included in bond package. We don't need more construction or man-made structures on the Southside. The Master plan and City Council specified that the south side should be designed in as natural a way as possible. Other priorities are more important, other parks need funding, large majority of BSP community opposed the south bathhouse, it's a small group's pet project not a real need, and it will bring destruction to the pool.

We do not need to spend any money building a new bathhouse on the South Side. Just as bad, It would ruin the entire feel of that side of the pool. Sometimes things are better left as they are. We do not need to build new things just because some people want to build new things.

- I am writing to ask for full funding to rebuild the Dougherty Arts Center. I, amongst many, am afraid that there will be insufficient bond funds to rebuild it in a way that it can still offer all of the facilities it has now.

It is a valuable resource to the Austin arts community and it would be a severe loss to many local arts companies, artists and teachers if these facilities were no longer available.

I have been taken art classes at the Dougherty, my children have attended arts camps there, and my theatre company has frequently used its rehearsal space, and has also hired the theatre.

Please make sure that the community does not lose these affordable and extensive facilities.

- I would like to voice my support for the following projects:  
\$175 million for parks and open space.
- I am emailing to indicate my support of the funding for parks, open space and the Violet Crown Trail. Spending on these components assure continued protection and enhancement of quality of life in Austin! \
- I am Leti De La Vega. I am learning to be a historian for my mother's side, The Sanchez Family. We are a border family. Working our story into many mediums. I did my first play @ the center. And have begun a Families of Border Histories. I am working with 4 different border families. And had planned on doing a bigger better play with music, children & adults. Many of my artists have never done anything at the center. We truly hope we won't have to go else-where. We loved everything, location, sound system etc.
- Please include financing for the improvements and maintenance of Austin parks – especially the protection of Barton Springs – it is one of our city's crown jewels and a truly unique experience. Dallas, Houston, San Antonio can't match it!
- I appreciate the Task Force's support for protection of Barton Springs' watershed, and urge you to keep the \$57 million sum in the package for additional land acquisition in the basin. As a source of good drinking water, a site for endangered species, and as the cultural heart of the City, the Springs deserve this protection.
- Please support projects that protect the water quality of Barton Springs pool before funding cosmetics and additional buildings.
- I want to, first, express gratitude for the Council's support of permanent protections of Barton Springs watershed lands, and then, additionally, to urge the Taskforce to keep the currently proposed \$57 million in the final recommendations, even over projects that would further develop Zilker Park or the Barton Springs watershed.
- Thank you for supporting the permanent protection of Barton Springs watershed lands. I am writing to urge you to keep the \$57 million in the final recommendations so that we may protect critical watershed lands before they are developed. Please prioritize Barton Springs protection over projects that would further develop Zilker Park or the Barton Springs watershed.
- I am writing you to that you for supporting permanent protection of the Barton Springs watershed lands. You guys are playing vital role in preserving our groundwater so that we can sustain ourselves in the coming drought-ridden years. Thank you. As you look to trim projects from the proposed list (\$625 million worth), please preserve the \$57 million allotment for purchasing and preserving watershed lands. This is critical.
- Dear members of the city of Austin's Bond Advisory Task Force Thank you for supporting permanent protection of Barton Springs watershed lands and I urge you to keep the \$57 million in the final recommendations so that we may protect critical watershed lands before they are developed. Please prioritize Barton Springs protection over projects that would further develop Zilker Park or the Barton Springs watershed.
- I'm writing today to show my support for the protection of Barton Springs Watershed lands. Please keep the \$57 million in the final recommendations so that we may protect critical watershed lands before development happens. I would hope that we would prioritize Barton Springs protection over other projects.
- I am weighing in with my two cents ... I am a real regular at the springs and I am quite happy with the "go for a swim in the creek" look and feel of the south side of the springs. For myself and most folks that I know who frequent Barton Springs pool it feels quite lovely that it isn't "fixed up"! I know development is "natural" way for folks to want to go, but, again I say, I really like the historically undeveloped, natural look and feel of the south gate. So, my vote ...



no on the sculpture

no on more paved areas

no on a new entry gate and entry building. Thank you for your time, and I hope you really listen to the consensus of voices on this issue.

- I want to (a) thank you for supporting permanent protection of Barton Springs watershed lands and (b) urge you to keep the \$57 million in the final recommendations so that we may protect critical watershed lands before they are developed. I ask you to prioritize Barton Springs protection over projects that would further develop Zilker Park or the Barton Springs watershed.
- Please keep \$57 million for Barton Springs watershed land and development
- Thank you for protecting Barton Springs. I hope you keep the \$57 million in the final recommendations and prioritize Barton Springs protection.
- Thank you for protecting Barton Springs
- Please keep protecting Barton Springs and keep the amount in the final recommendation.
- Thank you for supporting permanent protection of Barton Springs watershed lands. To do this it is imperative to keep the \$57 million in the final recommendations so that we may protect critical watershed lands. Prioritize Barton Springs protection and the Barton Springs watershed.
- I am a citizen of Austin and a regular Barton Springs swimmer, and I vote. I am writing to thank you for supporting permanent protection of Barton Springs watershed lands. I urge you to keep \$57 million dedicated to purchasing Barton Springs watershed lands and conservation easements so that critical watershed lands can be protected and preserved rather than developed. I further ask that you prioritize protection of Barton Springs over projects that would further develop Zilker Park or the Barton Springs watershed.
- Please keep the \$57 million in the final approval for protection, not development, of our beloved springs.
- Thank you for supporting permanent protection of Barton Springs watershed lands. I urge you to keep the \$57 million in the final recommendations so that we may protect critical watershed lands before they are developed.  
Please prioritize Barton Springs protection over projects that would further develop Zilker Park or the Barton Springs watershed.
- Thank you for supporting Barton Springs watershed lands!!
- I'd like to thank you for supporting permanent protection of Barton Springs watershed lands. I urge you to keep the \$57 million for permanent protection of Barton Springs watershed lands in the final recommendations, so that we may protect critical watershed lands before they are developed. Please prioritize Barton Springs protection over projects that would further develop Zilker Park or the Barton Springs watershed.
- Please add the \$57 million back into the proposed budget for Barton Springs Pool. Also, we are opposed to building the 'gate/entry and added platform' all on the South Side. We are in favor of keeping the pool as simple and 'go for a swim' as possible. Local Austinites really hope to preserve our swimming Springs and NOT commercialize them for the masses.
- In your final recommendations for Nov. bond election, please keep the \$57 million that would be dedicated to purchasing Barton Springs watershed lands and conservation easements. The next few years may be our last chance to protect critical watershed lands before they are developed. Please prioritize protection for Barton Springs and the aquifers, rather than projects that would further develop Zilker or other parks.  
Thank you for your diligent work, and for giving citizens the opportunity to permanently protect Barton Springs watershed lands.
- There is only one Barton Springs, if you ruin it....it's forever. At least let the people who use it decide what to do with it.
- SAVE THE SPRINGS!  
What can I do to help?  
This pool means my sanity to me!

- Second note... I am a faithful and long time supporter of SOS Alliance. I have been swimming at BS since I was a kid and I raised m two children there. I hope to swim there until my last breath. In my opinion it isn't broken except the watershed needs to be better protected. This spring after the rains the pool became cloudy and have remained motsty not as clear as even last yr, rumor is this is due to more runoff into the aquifer. So here is my note and thank you.

(a) Thank them for supporting permanent protection of Barton Springs watershed lands and  
(b) Urge them to keep the \$57 million in the final recommendations so that we may protect critical watershed lands before they are developed. Ask them to prioritize Barton Springs protection over projects that would further develop Zilker Park or the Barton Springs watershed.

- Please designate permanent protection for the jewel of our city, Barton Springs! This is a very important issue now so please act.
- Thank you for supporting permanent protection of Barton Springs watershed land please keep the \$57 million in the final recommendations so that we may protect critical watershed lands before they are developed.  
And, please prioritize Barton Springs protection over projects that would further develop Zilker Park or the Barton Springs watershed.
- My children and I like to thank you for you permanent support of Barton Springs watershed land. My Children and I urgent you to keep \$57 millions in the final recommendation, so we can protect critical the watershed land before they become developed. we aske you prioritize Barton Springs protection over projects that will further develop at Zilker Park or Barton Springs watershed.
- I also urge you to keep the \$57 million in the final recommendations so that we may protect critical watershed lands before they are developed.  
Also, it is of the utmost importance that you place the highest priority on Barton Springs protection over projects that further develop Zilker or the Barton Springs watershed.
- I am writing to thank you for supporting permanent protection of Barton Springs watershed lands and to urge you to keep the \$57 million in the final recommendations so that we may protect critical watershed lands from being developed. Please prioritize Barton Springs protection over projects that would further develop Zilker Park or the Barton Springs watershed. Barton Springs is a unique--unquestionably unique--asset of Austin. If we fail to protect it, we fail to protect one of the singular features that make Austin the special place it is.
- In reading the Committee Recommendations Summary Report, I am reminded how amazingly expensive it is to run a city. I certainly would find budgeting for the many projects to be daunting.

Though one of the least crucial, I am always drawn to the parks issue. Our experience, when we have visitors downtown (we live & work there), is a bit mixed. While the hike & bike trail is great, the smaller parks are embarrassing. There has been some effort on Republic Park, and it's decent, but not wonderful in comparison to almost every other city's downtown parks that I have visited. Then there's Wooldridge Square, which is a disaster at all times. The trash, the unleashed, unlicensed dogs, and the flagrant desecration of the area by the people who gather there is disgusting. I never understand why any park in a city like Austin would be allowed to deteriorate to this level, but one with the history of this park is even more disappointing.

I saw that there were funds to purchase more land. Until Austin can maintain what parks they have, how could it make sense to spend money on purchasing more? I wonder to what extent the committee familiarizes themselves with the projects for which funds are requested.

- I SUPPORT PERMANENT PROTECTION OF BARTON SPRINGS WATERSHED LANDS.
- Thank you for your efforts in establishing permanent watershed protection for Barton Springs.
- I'm asking that funds be prioritized to purchase watershed lands rather than spent to develop areas around the pool. Water quality has to come first; otherwise, what's the point? I've

paddled the creek and enjoyed the pool for 3 decades now, and the water quality has visibly deteriorated over that time. If we don't prioritize purchase and conservation of watershed lands, we lose everything. Large ranches in the watershed have recently shifted hands within families, and others are likely to do so soon as older landowners pass on. Please be ready to act when the opportunities arise before developers step in and take away the opportunity for good. Thank you for doing what's best for us all, on behalf of myself and my family, and all future fans of this unique treasure.

- This email is intended to strongly encourage you to keep the full \$57 million proposed for the protection of critical watershed lands in the final bond package recommendations. And please prioritize this over such things as new development in the park (such as building a new Dubai-like south entrance to Barton Springs).
- As an Austin resident, I thank you for supporting permanent protection of Barton Springs watershed lands!  
And I urge you to keep the \$57 million in the final recommendations so that we may protect critical watershed lands before they are developed.  
Please prioritize Barton Springs protection over projects that would further develop Zilker Park or the Barton Springs watershed.  
Thank you!  
Concerned and actively participating citizen of Austin and member - Zilker Association,
- **THANK YOU FOR PROTECTING BARTON SPRINGS!** Keep up the good work.
- The issue I care most about in Austin is the protection of Barton Creek and Barton Springs. Please earmark funds for its protection, and reject development plans that will foul the Barton Creek environment.\
- Thank you for recommending \$57 million to be dedicated to purchasing Barton Springs watershed lands and conservation easements.  
Please continue your support for permanent protection of Barton Springs watershed lands and keep the \$57 million in the final recommendations so that we may protect critical watershed lands before they are developed. Barton Springs protection is more critical over projects that would further develop Zilker Park or the Barton Springs watershed.
- Please allocate the funds at your discretion for the protection of the Springs, so critical to all of us here in Austin/Central Texas.
- Urging you to support the \$57 Million in bonds for the purchase of conservation easements for the Barton Springs Watershed.
- Don't pare the bond \$\$ from the budget that are allocated to buying conservation lands to protect Barton Springs.
- Thank you for continuing to support the protection of the Barton Springs watershed. As an active voter in Travis County, I urge you to keep the maximum possible monies available for this critical conservation project. There is immense community value in habitat and aquifer protection.
- Thank you for supporting permanent protection of Barton Springs watershed lands. Please keep the \$57 million dedicated to purchasing Barton Springs watershed lands and conservation easements in the final recommendations so that we may protect critical watershed lands before they are developed. Please prioritize Barton Springs protection over projects that would further develop Zilker Park or the Barton Springs watershed.
- Thank you for supporting the permanent protection of Barton Springs watershed land. I ask that you keep the \$57 million in the final recommendations so that we may protect critical watershed lands before they are developed. Please prioritize Barton Springs protection over projects that would further develop Zilker Park or the Barton Springs watershed.
- As a taxpayer and citizen in Austin, TX, I vehemently oppose the building of the platform on the south side hill to accommodate a proposed "art in public places" sculpture. Clearly, art is to be celebrated--but not at the expense of Barton Springs. The beauty of human-created art cannot compare with the natural beauty that already exists at Barton Creek.  
Building this large ornamental gate and fence on the south side with a new, pre-fab gate house will NOT create more art lovers. It will simply anger swimmers, and actually it would likely hurt the art community more than help it. Most people will view this development as yet

another cheap trick by developers to rape the land for their own profit. DO NOT LET THIS HAPPEN!

As SOS notes, these new gates and fences would eliminate the current and historic casual "go for a swim in the creek" look and feel of the south side of the springs. The historic stone and wood ticket booth would be replaced with a larger, pre-fab "pavilion" gate house -- adding yet more development where a broad consensus of Barton Springs regular swimmers support retaining the historically undeveloped, natural look and feel of the south gate.

Again, I urge you to REJECT this plan for the development at Barton Springs. It is already a beautiful, inspiring place. If it is not broken, do not fix it.

- I would like to respectfully ask that the Dougherty Arts Center be full funded for being rebuilt. It is such an important community resource for arts organizations. Our theatre company uses it all the time for rehearsal space and it is often booked because so many other groups use it for the same. Thank you.
- Additionally, we urge you to keep the \$175 million in Parks and Open Spaces funding as part of the proposal. Once these opportunities are lost, they are gone forever.
- Thank you for including the \$57 million to purchase open space to protect critical watershed lands. Preservation of these lands is essential to protect our groundwater resources over the long-term. I strongly encourage you to retain this funding in the final bond package.
- I support bond development for parks and green space.
- Please, just leave Barton springs alone. Why is that so hard to do? It's fine as it is and has been for several decades. Find another project.
- Can you tell me what is covered by the 2012 bond package funding for the Barton Springs Pool bathhouse renovation (ID 9663.003) covers? There's a bit of a firestorm developing about whether the 2012 bond package funding covers a new bathhouse on the south side, but my understanding was that it covers only the original (north side) bathhouse and not any new bathhouse on the south side. Unfortunately, I'm not able to see details at the city's website
- We need to do everything possible to save and improve the Springs
- Thank you for your efforts to protect the Barton Springs watershed. I've lived in Austin since 1980 and have loved going to Barton Springs for decades. I've seen a lot of changes in Austin over the years, and treasure what seems to be a diminishing amount of green space. I'm amazed at the number of people that use the city's green belts and feel that Austin would be best served by increasing the city's park lands and green spaces while the land is still available. I hope that you will do everything in your power to maintain the \$57M amount previously recommended protecting the watershed.
- Oppose purchase for land for water quality.
- Support downtown parks
- Supports water quality purchase
- Support renovating parks.
- Support Elizabeth Ney project. (1) tally.
- Elizabeth Ney project under funded.
- Daugherty Arts project will keep arts activates affordable.
- Is \$ 500 mil the amount your trying to reach? Possibly looking @ several options.
- Afraid Dougherty will be shut down if it isn't approved.
- Concerned about lack of projects in east. Also want computer arts center at Dougherty.
- Dougherty produces 3rd highest amt. of parks revenue--neighborhood support center!
- Austin Cord Soccer Assoc., Austin's Mens" Soccer Assoc., and Austin Women's Soccer League make up a large Austin soccer community. Current need for more soccer fields. Fields currently in use: Onion creek Soccer complex, Northeast Metro park, Southeast Metro Park. & East Metro Park. Need for restoration & expansion of numbers of fields. This need is due to league expansion as well as competition for fields w/ youth leagues.
- Cut downtown parks.
- Support for existing tennis facilities & expansion of tennis centers.
- Support sub comm recommendations on parks, open space at \$ 178 million. Support specifically the Barton Springs Pool Bathhouse.

- 1. If further cuts need to be made, I suggest cutting funds for open space acquisition. The city has purchased much of the available land already. What remains will be difficult to develop due to topography, inadequate utilities & poor transportation as well as the still slow recovery of the housing market.
- 3. Support repairs and improvements to sidewalks, bike facilities
- Dougherty is also a luxury at this time. Elisabeth Nay--No. Nay. Again that community needs to pitch in.

#### Transportation/Mobility - related comments

- Complete Maufries Lane to Todd Lane
- In addition to housing, infrastructure improvements are crucial for this City as it grows. Maintaining vibrant, walk-able community centers and regional centers will prevent economic deterioration and blight.
- North Lamar/Burnet needs a major rehab
- More \$ for transportation improvements
- Street improvements will help the city recycle taxes back to itself and the citizens. As much money as possible should be invested in planning and plumbing engineering to promote this.
- Cut funding to the Austin Planetarium, Parks, and any I-35 improvements that will not ultimately help relieve traffic issues.
- Transportation: It would be smart to have PW, ATD and PD collaborate on approaches for project funding
- Bike bridge at Mopac, Violet crown trail
- Long-term mobility & connectivity concerns.
- Historical 6th St. would like to see preservation of historic street. Would like streetscape improvements.
- More corridor studies south of Lake Lady Bird to identify needs. (South Lamar, South 1st, feeders from downtown.) Desire for funding for studies.
- Disappointment the T/M Cmte didn't rec. the east 12th street project. T/M cmte heard differing opinions about desire for E 12.th project. Mentioned letter/ petition from residents in area that support the project.
- Concern about no \$ for Burnet (south of 183) esp. around Anderson. Residential growth in area. Bike/ Ped safety. (BEATF will check if this project is included in Burnet/ Lamar project) 51st street vision plan- impacted by other developments. Muller development AISD perf. arts center. ADA sidewalks on Airport Blvd. & Burnet/ Lamar. Lamar crossings & sidewalks. IH-35- regional impact. \$for Burnet all the way to 2222 & VP to Mopac (bike/ ped).
- Want more priority for sidewalks instead of urban trails.
- Lamar & Burnet lighting doesn't meet C.O.A standards. Most auto accidents occur at night. No one walks or rides bikes through Burnet & Lamar.
- Connectivity problems on N.L & Burnet.
- Traffic Calming is being done to prevent speeding and dangerous U turns.
- 12th street suggested for redevelopment reconsideration
- Businesses are suffering due to N.L & Burnet problems.
- Unsafe crossing @ lamar & Rundberg
- Increase in ease of access in N.L & Burnet
- Car traffic up in Woodrow.
- Link on Shoal Creek could be made.
- Main cyclist road has been shut down.
- E. 12th street needs funding for redevelopment.
- N.L & Burnet & Airport (11 people)
- Austin Neighborhood Council E 12th St improvements. Support petition streetscapes etc.
- DAA- Connectivity, vibrancy, pedestrian friendly. These themes rise to the top. ADA compliance. Great streets leads to econ. Vitality.
- NACA support for N. Lamar/ N. Burnet improve corridors, growth is coming.

- ANC- support for 2 projects, Montopolis center, 12 st. improvements (not in current TF proposal)
- Support for N. Burnet /N. Lamar.
- Gosh darn, we don't wish anyone ill or want to takeaway their good things, but it's hard to hear so much about all the fabulous city programs that we & our kids cant access because our transportation is so broken
- 51st street, Lamar & Burnet Rd improvements. I work with people with disabilities and they have tremendous difficulty getting anywhere without sidewalks & lights
- 1.) Support for all types of transportation including pedestrian, bike, and handicap transportation.
- I am the facilitator with the Crestview Neighborhood Planning Contact Team. Our neighborhood plan promotes/ recommends improved pedestrian and bike use and access along Burnet Rd. (see the Crestview/Wooten Combined Neighborhood plan page 40-56).
- Please fund high traffic but sub-standard arteries such as Burnet Rd and Lamar Blvd.
- I support the improvements to Lamar & Burnet because it is a hassle driving on these main streets from downtown to the North side of town.
- I support sidewalks on Burnet Rd. Thanks very much
- Support I35 improvements of 40 million (for our most congested freeway). Support E6th street improvements of 16 million in our most historic district.
- Big proponent for spending bond money on the transportation. North Burnet and Lamar. More green spaces, more ped/bike friendly walks/roads
- Please fund the improvements to Lamar/Burnet- It will improve traffic flow in & out of Downtown. It will revitalize the North side of town, which has been neglected. It will reduce fatalities from congestion. The north side of Austin is a large part of the population base.
- Please give Burnet Rd. and Lamar funding to facilitate the growth in those areas.
- Support N Lamar/ Burnet corridor improvements. Would like to see more bike lanes, pedestrian- friendly areas, and bus routes in NE Austin. Prefer money spent on projects that benefit the most people and have high ROI.
- I am asking for support of the East 6th street historic district streetscape reconstruction(18 million for construction). This funding will enable implementation of 2 million in design work now underway from the 2010 bond election to redevelop this national register historic street into a vibrant 18 hour a day, 7 day per week mixed use experience for locals and visitors alike. This money would be an INVESTMENT that will help enable re-tenanting of the street that will yield substantial ROI in short order in the form of increased property taxes, food and beverage taxes and sales tax that go back into the general budget to benefit the needs of all of Austin.
- I support N. Lamar/ Burnet transportation enhancements by adding sidewalks, trees, separation of bikes and pedestrians from vehicular traffic. Along with this, additional pocket parks in these areas to encourage people of all ages to make use of facilities & businesses with other accessible features enhancing the area.
- Please fund comprehensive streetscape and infrastructure improvements for east 12th of no less than \$20 million. There is an open air drug market at 12th and Chicon less than two miles from the Capitol building. This must end. We must encourage development along east 12th to provide needed services for the residents of central east austin, many of which reside in high concentrations of affordable housing located around east 12th.
- The Burnet Road-Lamar corridor projects are crucial to a quality future for Austinites. These are major north/south corridors and currently do not accommodate travelers other than autos/buses. Especially as apartments/condos continue to be built adding to the traffic load. Senior citizens, children, cyclists--none are safe as currently there are no safe areas for them to travel on these corridors.
- Thank you for your service to the City. I want to advocate for keeping the full funding as recommended by the transportation subcommittee for the N. Lamar/N/ Burnet corridor projects. Development is coming in a big way to N. Austin, indeed the parcels around the Kramer rail stop have some of the greatest entitlements in terms of height outside of

downtown. Let's scaffold the new development with a quality framework in the form of walkable, bikeable, and vibrant corridors

- I am attending the meeting to support the Burnet/Lamar improvements. I have purchased a home in North Austin, previously renting in N. Central Austin (Hyde Park). Looking around the city I see many areas that \$ has been spent, and it appears North Austin has not received the attention it deserves. Thank you! Melinda Weaver
- Hi, I am concerned that there is no sidewalk 9621 N. Lamar, Lewis Park shopping center between shopping center and Thomas Bouquet, there's no sidewalks, people are using my drive through, so it's very dangerous, and all those homeless people stay near drive thru, so we really need a sidewalk. And I try to contact somebody but I don't know who I can report to or who I can talk about it, but it is a really serious need to have a sidewalk, because there is a lot of shopping. Thank you.
- I live in South Austin/Battle Bend Springs and our NA along with our neighbor NA's have been asking for a sidewalk along Suburban for years, currently school kids, handicaps, and residents have to walk in the street which is a high safety issue. Please consider using some of the bond money to complete this sidewalk and any other improvements that our NA has requested.
- DAA letter in support of Downtown Squares, Waller Creek Improvements
- I am writing to voice my request for the following: \$3 million for the Violet Crown Trail which will connect over 100 miles of trails in central and south Austin, And \$175 million for parks and open space. Also of critical importance is the Mopac Bicycle Bridge at Barton Creek Phase 1 and 2. As a newer Austin resident, I believe that one of the primary aspects that makes this city so attractive, unique, and healthy, is the focus on conserving green space and providing access for Austin citizens and visitors to well-kept parks, trails, and pedestrian/bicycle transportation methods. It is crucial that we continue to place emphasis on building and maintaining these green places and open spaces so that we can continue to boost a beautiful, clean, healthy, and environmentally conscious city.
- Unfortunately I had scheduled other events tonight and tomorrow night before receiving notice of the meetings concerning the upcoming bond election; otherwise, I would have been at one of them. Even though I cannot attend, I think it is important that you know that my family, wife and our kids and grandkids here in Austin, actively support the following projects: Mopac Bicycle Bridge at Barton Creek Phase 1 and 2; 51st Street Vision Plan Improvements; and since my wife and I live and ride our bikes in east Austin, of particular importance the Pedestrian/Bicycle Access of Pleasant Valley Longhorn Dam to Lakeshore Please do everything possible to make sure Austin remains a city that takes responsibility for maintaining the "Quality of Life" for its residents and visitors. Particularly in this time of rapid growth, it is critical that we all support adequate parks, open space and transportation alternatives if we are to remain one of the most livable cities anywhere.
- **\*Please note that the comment below was repeated (62 times)**  
I am writing to show my support for funding for bicycling and walking in the 2012 Austin Bond Election. In addition to the funding that is in the current draft package, I urge you to include the following: 1) Restore funding for City Wide Bikeways to \$3 million from \$1.5 million. This additional funding would go a long way toward creating a family friendly bike network that is available to everyone to use.  
Note that this is still less than the City Staff stated needs of \$3.25MM. 2) Restore funding for the Pleasant Valley Road widening at \$0.95 million.  
This is the only bridge between I-35 and U.S. 183 that connects Southeast Austin with East Austin, yet it is arguably the worst, most dangerous river bridge crossing in Central Austin. These are two communities that have high percentages of households without cars, and this project would take important steps toward filling a gap in the bicycle network.  
When the Butler trail is soon extended by the Boardwalk, many more people will be using the Pleasant Valley Bridge to make a loop around Lady Bird Lake, so funding improvements in this bond election is likely the last opportunity before the Boardwalk opens. 3) Add the 51st Street complete street project at \$3.5 million, a Community-Based Project.

This roadway project would include physically separated bikeways to provide family friendly connectivity in Northeast Austin. 4) Add the Violet Crown Trail at \$3 million, a Community-Based Project. This would fund one segment of a regional trail, connecting Austin to communities southward. It would also provide neighborhood connectivity, separated from motor traffic.

- I am writing to express my strong support for the following potential bond items. One of the things that make Austin a truly unique place to live is all of the open space and trails. And \$175 million for parks and open space.
- Also of critical importance is the Mopac Bicycle Bridge at Barton Creek Phase 1 and 2.
- Also of critical importance is the Mopac Bicycle Bridge at Barton Creek Phase 1 and Pedestrian/Bicycle Access of Pleasant Valley Longhorn Dam to Lakeshore
- Those of us who do not own cars and travel by foot or bicycle desperately need more and better facilities. There are spots in Austin that would be shameful in a third world country, but to see them here is just beyond words. I'm talking about sections of road that have no shoulder or sidewalk that force pedestrians to walk in busy traffic lanes.
- Also of critical importance is the Mopac Bicycle Bridge at Barton Creek Phase 1 and 2. Keep visitors coming to Austin with these wonderful draws. I have friends coming from Sitka, Alaska at the end of June to enjoy the outdoor activities that we offer.
- Also of critical importance is the Mopac Bicycle Bridge at Barton Creek Phase 1 and 2.
- I am writing to request support for funding for bicycling and walking in the upcoming bond election. In addition to the funding that is in the current draft package, I urge you to include the following: 1) Restore funding for City Wide Bikeways 2) As much additional funding as practical for parks and open space in general from the perpetually underserved 78726 (no nearby library, no nearby bus service, no safe bike routes to anywhere, no nothin', etc. etc.)
- I am writing to show my support for the following bond priorities Please completely fund City Wide Bikeways for \$3 million to create a bike network that I can use with my 3 children. Please restore funding for the Pleasant Valley Road widening. This is the Eastside's route to South Austin. Please fund the Violet Crown Trail.
- Also of critical importance is the Mopac Bicycle Bridge at Barton Creek Phase 1 and 2.
- I fully support N Lamar Blvd & Burnet Road Corridor Improvements and strongly urge it be kept in the bond development package.
- This email recommends that the committee on Capital Needs Assessment consider and apportion funds to the E 12th Street Plan. E 12th Street has been neglected for years and its time has come. Please allocate funds to this project.
- I apologize for not being here in person tonight to show my strong support of transportation and mobility improvements in the N. Lamar / Burnet Rd. corridors. My family and I are leaving town this weekend and will be gone several months; I am simply out of time to fit in another meeting. I would like to plead with all of you to give your fullest support to improving the walkability and bikeability in our wonderful neighborhoods. My husband is a research scientist at the Pickle Research Center on Burnet Road. What a lovely thing it would be for my young son and I to be able to ride our bikes down to the facility to have lunch with his father. As it stands now, there is absolutely no safe way at all to bike or walk this little three-mile stretch. My husband and I feel it is so important to model for our son the wonderful benefits of walking and bike riding. My husband rides his bike to work almost every day. However, that route is about 4 ½ miles due to his needing to cut through various neighborhoods while avoiding Burnet Rd. for as long as possible due the extreme lack of safe bike lanes on that stretch (and for most of North Burnet Rd. in general). My husband would love it if he could ride his bike to lunch once he is at his office. Again, the inhospitable environment for pedestrians and bike riders on North Burnet Rd. prevents this. My son and I recently took the bus up to the Pickle Research Center. The bus dropped us off dangerously close to the road where traffic was racing by. The bus stop had no bench nor did it have any shade. To get across Burnet Rd. we were forced to wait almost 6 minutes for the road to clear enough for me to feel comfortable taking my young child across it. Surely we can do better than this. Austin purports itself to be clean and "green." We need to practice what we preach. This corridor is not clean, nor green, nor even safe. In fact, it is the antithesis of all



these things that we claim to hold dear. I beg you give us sidewalks, bike lanes, decent bus stops, crosswalks, trees! Give us a safe and enjoyable way to go have lunch with my son's father. Help us show him what it's like to live in a city that values the environment. We would be so grateful for any assistance you could give us in making this beautiful neighborhood that we so love more beautiful, safe, walkable, bikeable, and environmentally progressive.

- I would like to voice my support for the following projects:

Mopac Bicycle Bridge at Barton Creek Phase 1 and 2

- Every year Central Texans spend hours sitting in traffic. Transportation MUST be the top priority for every bond election starting this November and remain our top priority until Austin is no longer at the top of the list for congestion.

I encourage you to spend a majority of the 2012 bond funding on transportation projects on our most congested corridors that address peak hour congestion such as IH 35, SL 360, Mopac, and North Lamar/Burnet. My B2B business is very face-to-face meeting intensive and often in coffee shops, restaurants and other public places around town. As you can imagine, late afternoon meetings with clients are rare because they are already planning their flight from the core.

One last note: Urban Rail cannot happen soon enough. This more than anything will give us more options for land use because we will not need to have so many parking lots and thus a more attractive city. Imagine 3rd and 4th Streets with parks or new buildings, anything other than ill-maintained parking lots that cost more to use than public transportation, when it's available. I'd much rather spend the parking money on a tip or a museum.

- Thank you for the difficult service you are providing for our City. I realize there are many very worthy projects you are having to choose among and I support many of them, but transportation funding is essential given the growth we have had on a consistent basis over many years. We simply must fund transportation at a level which will be meaningful given the critical congestion issues we face. Though we cannot fund all of our community's needs to the extent that is needed or we would like, we can provide significant funding to those things which benefit all. Whether we use transit or cars, transportation investments are essential to ease the increasing gridlock in our community: Loop 360; MoPac; Lamar; Guadalupe; Congress; South First; I-35; Caesar Chavez; 5th; 6th; Enfield; 38th ....pick the priorities, but everyone in Austin who uses these corridors knows that transportation dollars are a real priority in our community.

- I support funding for bicycling and walking in the 2012 Austin Bond Election. In addition to the funding that is in the current draft package, I urge you to include the following:

1) Restore funding for City Wide Bikeways from \$1.5 million to \$3 million.

This additional money would go a long way toward creating a family friendly bike network that is available to everyone to use.

Note that this is still less than the City Staff stated needs of \$3.25 million.

2) Restore funding for the Pleasant Valley Road widening at \$0.95 million.

This is the only bridge between I-35 and U.S. 183 that connects Southeast Austin with East Austin, yet it is arguably the worst, most dangerous river bridge crossing in Central Austin.

These are two communities that have high percentages of households without cars, and this project would take important steps toward filling a gap in the bicycle network.

When the Butler trail is soon extended by the Boardwalk, many more people will be using the Pleasant Valley bridge to make a loop around Lady Bird Lake, so funding improvements in this bond election is likely the last opportunity before the Boardwalk opens.

3) Add the 51st Street complete street project at \$3.5 million, a Community-Based Project.

This roadway project would include physically separated bikeways to provide family friendly connectivity in Northeast Austin.

4) Add the Violet Crown Trail at \$3 million, a Community-Based Project.

This would fund one segment of a regional trail, connecting Austin to communities southward. It would also provide neighborhood connectivity, separated from motor traffic.

- Hi, all! I'm taking a moment to voice my support for all the funds you can manage to gather to continue to make Austin less reliant on automobiles. I copied and pasted the following from the LOBV website (I'm sure you've seen it before) but i must stress that i emphatically agree with everything it proposes. I live here and bike here because Austin is one of the few places

where community and cooperation still have a chance against mindless industry and greed. Please help us to all love staying here in this progressive city! Thanks! Laura Noose (78702)

To the Bond Election Advisory Task Force,

I am writing to show my support for funding for bicycling and walking in the 2012 Austin Bond Election. In addition to the funding that is in the current draft package, I urge you to include the following:

1) Restore funding for City Wide Bikeways to \$3 million from \$1.5 million.

This additional funding would go a long way toward creating a family friendly bike network that is available to everyone to use.

Note that this is still less than the City Staff stated needs of \$3.25MM.

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4) Add the Violet Crown Trail at \$3 million, a Community-Based Project.

This would fund one segment of a regional trail, connecting Austin to communities southward. It would also provide neighborhood connectivity, separated from motor traffic.

- Support east 6th makeover. **(7) tallies**
- Support trail connectivity in N. Austin
- Support N. Lamar/ improvements Burnet Airport. (4) tallies.
- Support projects that will benefit most residents--traffic, libraries, parks. keep taxes low more sidewalks/ ped trails.
- Continue to fund streetscape improvements downtown--specifically E. 6th street--to enhance walk ability and a mix of uses.
- Please help solve the congestion on IH-35 by fully funding the request for \$40M in funds for improvements to IH-35. We need to leverage our limited funds to maximize impact on the community and this investment will do that in a major way.
- Fund the country club creek trail.
- Support Transp. Recommendations on Bikeways, street & sidewalk improvements. Increase city wide bikeways back to \$ 3 million. This is desperately needed for S. Austin.
- (2) I work for a company servicing 6th St, Congress to I-35 businesses & am not in support of the downtown Austin plan increasing the width of the sidewalks, reducing access & parking.
- 3. Support repairs and improvements to sidewalks, bike facilities
- Thanks for all your work on these issues. Mobility is important also, bikes, sidewalks, roads.

#### Community-Based Projects

- The film Studio collects revenue for the City of Austin so an investment in the Austin Film Studio expansion would greatly benefit the City
- Mexican art is a great cultural expression that cannot be shared in the building the Mexic-Arte Museum now owns. It is in shambles and is in dire need of funding
- Mexic-Arte will help educate children as well as serve as a destination museum
- Support Austin Studios investment
- Support Mexic-Arte project
- Support the Austin Studios expansion. In 2006 the bond resulted in a \$290 million impact to the economy.
- Mexicarte support.

- Mexicarte Downtown connection to areas like akins & SE
- Mexicarte- Bil Bao effect
- Mex-Arte has programs thatt enrich communites like Dove Springs. E.g teach graphic design, screen ..., Marketing, sales, artistic expression.
- Austin Studios. Discusses bond money given previously to Austin Studios which they've used to employ Austin citizens. Money will improve infrastructure. 2nd citizen thanks committee for work on bond to improve quality of life in Windsor Park.
- Mexican Arte Museum- More than just a building downtown, needs repair, programs reach out to community & provide services to the community at large. Wants to rebuild an iconic building to draw people from around the world and boost economic development.
- Support Violet Crown trail
- Please support Austin Studios expansion. It will mean jobs for Austinites. Thank you.
- Please continue to support Austin Studios revitalization and Airport and 51st street improvements. I live on E. 55th and look forward to continued growth in the area.
- I definitely support the Austin Studios expansion and the increased economic opportunities it will bring to me and the whole community.
- Austin Studios- Cultural, QOL, & economic engine, brings in \$ to Austin economy.
- Approve Austin Film society request for bond help. Increase production of movies in Austin. A.F.S deserves funding.
- MexicArte project. Mexican American corridor potential for iconic building.
- Support participation of Austin Film Society in bond process
- Austin Studios project, success- economic & artistic.
- National Guard Armory Continue collaboration w/ city
- Please fund a reasonable amount to allow Ausin Studios to quickly improve the facilities entrusted to the Film Societ. The City's commitment to the digital media and filming industry will enjoy and bring much economy with these improvements. Zilker Clubhouse Renovation- Yea!
- 3.) Support 12th Street Improvements (reconsider adding to package).
- I support the Austin Studios Expansion. This investment will greatly benefit tAustin fiscally by creating jobs, supporting small businesses that the studio space will house,& by bringing film makers to Austin, therefore supporting other local businesses.
- Support Austin Studios expansion
- 16 million for the Austin Studio Expansion will create a 290 million economic impact. Please continue that economic driver by investin in Austin Studios again.
- Please consider if the Daughtery & Austin Studios projects could be combined, to better leverage tax dollars
- Support the investment in building an iconic Mexic-Arte museum.
- I support the expansion of Austin Studios to help further develop the growing creative economy in town that enriches the life of the Ciy and contributes financially to the local economy as a whole
- Support for Austin Studios Expansion
- Please make room for Austin Studios Expansion! It will pay back the Cost in jobs and other economic impacts.
- Thank you for your service! I would like to coive my support for the Mexic-Arte Museum project as a hub for the 5th street project running international magnet for tourism.
- I would like to ask support of the Austin Studios expansion. (7.5m-9.5m). This is a project that will PAY FOR ITSELF in just a fewshort years through new job creation, new creative industry projects (films, gaming, music) that will be produced and taxed here, and will continue to contribute to the economic development of the Mueller complex. Taking possession of the Air National Guard Facilities but not making them functional for new adaptive use would be a waste of this opprotunity. This is not juse a one-way spend on community needs, but rather a true INVESTMENT that will provide a rapid ROI on many financial levels. Agreat use of taxpayer dollars.

- The placement of the Austin Studios Expansion at the band is an essential step in the right direction as far as furthering the economic generator that is Film & theater production in Austin
- Thank you task force committee for their consideration and championing of the Austin studios expansion. As a location scout for the Texas Film Commission I have the daily experience of working with film & tv productions looking to land in Texas (- in this case Austin). And film and TV productions being done by our filmmaking comm. and film crew already based here in Austin. Moviemaker Magazine has listed Austin as the #1 filmmaking destination in the US and we see no reason for this desire to film in Austin to subside. With the exception of Austin not being able to compete/ offer plenty of studio space for potential film & TV production Austin studios is at capacity as is.
- Support the Austin Studios expansion. The Economic impact provided by the Austin studios \$1.3 billion since founded in 2000, along with jobs creation 8,000 plus aids in the city to continue to grow and support the other needs
- I am a location scout with personal knowledge of 5 major motion pictures based on Texas stories. Texas offers two magnet cities for hollywood motion picture firms and television series--Austin and Dallas. In 2003, the peak of production in Austin, the economic impact to Austin was greater than \$200 million. Dallas gives incentives to productions in money and/or facilities free. Austin offers the Austin Film Studios. In 2013, Texas will see an increase of Hollywood productions currently in development. The plans for improvement of Austin Film Studios/National Guard Building are critical to maintain Austin as a major production center. Austin for 10 years remains in top 10 position nationwide for independent film production which will be better served by AFS if granted the funds to improve the facility.
- I support the Austin Studios Expansion as an independent producer and tenant of the Austin Film Society/Austin Studios. As someone intimately involved in and with the creative class of skilled workers, I know first hand what continued support of the infrastructure will give back to the community and beyond
- **Note: The following comment was provide 70 times:**  
 "I urge the City of Austin Bond Election Advisory Task Force to identify and recommend the Austin Planetarium's science museum, planetarium and technology center as a project for funding in the City of Austin 2012 Bond election. Furthermore, I urge the Austin City Council to include the Austin Planetarium project in the City of Austin 2012 bond package for the proposed amount of \$3 million. Austin, TX is the largest city in the nation without a planetarium and it also lacks a full-spectrum science museum. In a city that is touted as Silicon Hills the conspicuous absence of these crucial community assets is unacceptable. A facility, such as the one proposed by the Austin Planetarium, is certain to enhance the community in a variety of ways. It will provide an unparalleled educational destination for area schools to enjoy on field trips; it will provide a place for the science-minded technology workforce to enjoy with their families, thus aiding in the recruitment and retention of the technology workforce; it will offer a venue for the robust technology community of Austin to display the incredible innovations and products that are developed right here in our backyard; it will create a new tourist destination, enhancing the experience of visitors to the State Capital and increase revenue generated in the local tourism and hospitality industries; it will stand as a world-class model of architecture and sustainability, and be a source of pride for all Texans; it will entertain, educate and inspire our community to pursue academic paths and careers in the important fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The time has come for the City of Austin to help with the development of a science museum, planetarium and technology center in Austin. Please include the Austin Planetarium on the 2012 City of Austin Bond Election Advisory Task Force recommendations as well as the final 2012 Bond package. Together we can finally give Austin and Central Texas a place to expand their horizons and reach for the stars.
- One of my biggest problems with Austin has always been the lack of a science museum, time to fix this!

- Even though I cannot attend, I think it is important that you know that my family, wife and our kids and grandkids here in Austin, actively support the following projects: Violet Crown Trail (\$3M) which will connect over 100 miles of trails in central and south Austin;
- Please support the Violet Crown Trail and \$175 million for Parks and Open Space conservation. Wise, managed growth demands that cities stay proactive in urban planning. We already have some of the worst rush hour traffic in the country. When we are behind in road work, parks help us catch up. They minimize air/water pollution, provide recreational spaces, and make our city better.
- I am writing to express my strong support for the following potential bond items. With the mounting population, we need to insure that we continue to expand and improve what we already have. I am in strong support of the recommendations for the Hill Country Conservancy's requests for \$3 million for the Violet Crown Trail which will connect over 100 miles of trails in central and south Austin
- I am writing to express my full support of the following issues, and ask you to help make them a reality. 2. 51st Street Vision Plan Improvements
- One of the things that will set Austin apart is green space and trails. \$3 million for the Violet Crown Trail which will connect over 100 miles of trails in central and south Austin And \$175 million for parks and open space.
- I respectfully and warmly urge the Task Force members to support the Hill Country Conservancy's request for \$3 million for the Violet Crown Trail. The funds will enable HCC to move ahead in interconnecting over 100 miles of trails in central and south Austin. The forging of this extensive trail system and its linkages to neighborhoods, educational institutions, recreational destinations, protected natural resources and parks, the occasional hardly known habitat phenomenon, scenic landmarks surprisingly and happily emerging into view, and central Austin and the centers of other communities will not be, simply, a foot and bike exercise. It will be a means of pulling together the greater Austin community and sensitizing it to the very important realities of environment, physical well-being, the region's cultural and historic and agricultural heritage, and the commonalities that bring - and should bring - Austin's people to better understand each other, what Austin's all about, and why individual citizen action and responsiveness are so very, very important. I also urge your support for \$175 million of new funding for parks and open space and for the Mopac Bicycle Bridge at Barton Creek, Phase 1 and 2. Thank you for your time, attention, and the support I know you will continue to offer.
- \$3 million for the Violet Crown Trail which will connect over 100 miles of trails in central and south Austin, And \$175 million for parks and open space. Also of critical importance is the Mopac Bicycle Bridge at Barton Creek Phase 1 and 2.
- \$3 million for the Violet Crown Trail which will connect over 100 miles of trails in central and south Austin, And \$175 million for parks and open space..
- I support: \$3 million for the Violet Crown Trail which will connect over 100 miles of trails in central and south Austin, And \$175 million for parks and open space.
- I want to register my support for the \$10 million bond package proposal submitted by Mexic Arte Museum. I am sorry i am unable to be there at the meeting, but am very supportive of the new proposed building on 5th and Congress and very much support Mexic-Arte's efforts.
- I am writing to support bond initiatives for the Violet Crown Trail, acquisition of open space, and projects that support bicycle trails in Austin and surrounding communities.
- please support HCC's request for: \$3 million for the Violet Crown Trail which will connect over 100 miles of trails in central and south Austin, And \$175 million for parks and open space.,
- "I'm writing to express my support for the allotment of \$3 million for the Violet Crown trail and \$175 million for parks and open space in Austin. I came to Austin two years ago from San Francisco, where Golden Gate Park and the Presidio trails enabled me to enjoy nature within the confines of one of America's densest cities. I moved to Austin in order to experience a more relaxed pace of life, and I've certainly found that in the people and culture. However, Austin's parks and trails are in a sorry state compared to those of San Francisco, and I can't hike the greenbelt without encountering washed out trails, confusing side trails, and a surprising amount of trash.

- The loss of a pleasant daily hike has certainly impacted my quality of life here. More importantly, I believe that as Austin grows and rises to prominence amongst American cities, it would be shameful if we become nothing but a sea of condos interspersed with several neglected parks."
- "I would like to voice my support for the following projects:
- \$3 million for the Violet Crown Trail which will connect over 100 miles of trails in central and south Austin"
- "Please include \$3 million for the Violet Crown Trail as well as 175 million for parks and open space. It is important that we continue to find funding for these projects. Also, the Mopac Bicycle Bridget is important.
- We are urging you to support the Violet Crown Trail's funding of \$3 million in the upcoming bond proposal. This 100 mile trail will never be more affordable and will provide a great opportunity to preserve the natural beauty that we all value so much here in Austin and Travis County.
- Support Mexic-Arte
- Support Austin Studio expansion (7) tallies
- Supports Mexic-Arte project-will be downtown hub.
- Austin Studios expansion support for east Austin kinds.
- (1) putting Austin Studios on the bond will help galvanize the voters. They are a number of high-profile austinites involved in the film industry and the austin film society will ask them to speak out on behalf of a "yes" vote for the bond.
- I wanted to thank the committee for all their work. I also wanted to record my support for the Austin Studios bond item. I am an employer of Austin Studios biggest tennent, The Lying Game. Our production is buying out the seams and the added space to the AS campus is welcomed. The lying Game pumps over \$16M a season into the Austin economy. In order for Austin to continue to attract and retain productions of this size, Austin Studios needs the support of the taks force, thank you, Chris Jackson-prod. coordinator.
- Cut the planetarium.
- Cut Planetarium
- I support a balanced protfolio of programs. I like that some expeditures are mostly "charitable" for the benefit of the elderly, low income and others. However, I don't want the city to back away from revenue--producing initiatives, to this end, I support the Austin Studios expansion.
- I am in support of the Austin Film Studios expansion project. It provides a lot of money to the Austin area.
- Support specifically the Violet Crown Trail.
- Lend support to the Austin Studios expansion--it is and investments back to the city to and in community the growth and needs of the City of Ausitn overall.
- Please support Mexic-Arte Museum--benefits: Increase economic development--generates tourism, \$ for Austin, services 3000 students a year--students from Dove Springs area, One floor for education & career development, Museum will be a place for diversity, bring to civic Consciousness of the Mexican American culture & people, Enhance the great streets program.
- Mexic-Arte host a large number of tourists, meetings & convention goers yearly--international visitors around--the 5th & Congress location serves as an important part of Austin's tourist business.
- (1) I'm in support of the Austin Studios Expansion.
- Support Ausitn Studios, Helps local community and provides jobs.
- At this time we cannot support Mexicate nor the Planetarium.

#### Other Comments

- The increase in taxes causes concern for what we will do after the bonds are purchased
- Critically important to leverage funding
- Don't lowball!!!! Need adequate invesment in bond package

- Lack of southeast representation parks, roads, facilities, e.g
- Diversify investments in the community
- Fair distribution of resources. South east is getting short-changed. Downtown & West Austin are getting unfair share. Focus on basics: roads, parks & facilities- police. Cut proposals for: Culture, Trails & Housing.
- Need high visibility of physical police presence in zip code 78744
- I support the money for Mexic-Arte and the downtown parks. Cut- I think that there is too much \$ for affordable housing, and that this money won't go far enough or serve enough people.
- Concern about how this many projects can be done ... "maxing out the credit card" -is there enough city staff to do them?
- Leverage P3s (public private partnerships)
- Needs greater than resources
- Crime is occurring in the area frequently ( the area is referred to above this comment).
- NACA N. Austin zip codes- some of the most populous in Austin. Thank you for outreach in the area.
- NACA feel DT has been too much the focus. N. Austin can't get left out. N. Austin lacking basic infrastructure
- N. Shoal Creek neighborhood Assn.
- Please tone down special interests- fund the most sensible projects that will benefit the most citizens of Austin
- I strongly urge you to approve allocation of \$3 million for Violet Crown Trail, and \$175 million for Parks and Open Space Conservation, including emphasis of funding for Phases 1 and 2 of the Mopac Bicycle Bridge at Barton Creek for the November 2012 bond. Also of importance to be added to the list for the November 2012 bond are 51st Street Vision Plan Improvements, and Pedestrian / Bicycle Access of Pleasant Valley Longhorn Dam to Lakeshore. The City of Austin is undergoing unprecedented growth. It is vital that we maintain our existing park spaces, both for environmental health and the health of our citizens. Access to nearby open spaces decreases obesity, increases physical and mental health, reduces crime, improves property values and facilitates economic vitality through tourism. Supporting transportation alternatives only serves to further improve physical health, and reduce our negative impact on the environment. For more information on this issue, please see the publication by The Trust for Public Land entitled The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space, by Paul M. Sherer. It can be found at the following link: [http://www.childrenandnature.org/downloads/parks\\_for\\_people\\_Jul2005.pdf](http://www.childrenandnature.org/downloads/parks_for_people_Jul2005.pdf). Thank you in advance for your attention to this local and national issue of importance.
- My name is Cheyenne Johnson. I was born and raised in Austin. I attended the University of Texas. I am a Master Naturalist. And I have witnessed firsthand the extreme changes to our native landscapes and open spaces in and around the City of Austin my entire life. I come here today asking you to please consider at least \$200 Million in this year's bond to ensure adequate funding for parks, open space, trails and bikeways for future Austinites. In particular, please support My request for: \$3 million for the Violet Crown Trail which will connect over 100 miles of trails in central and south Austin \$175 million for parks and open space. Also of critical importance is the Mopac Bicycle Bridge at Barton Creek Phase 1 and 2. As a Ped-Bike-Park-Open Space Advocate I additionally request your support for the following community based projects to be added to the list of recommended projects for the November 2012 bond. 51st Street Vision Plan Improvements; Pedestrian/Bicycle Access of Pleasant Valley Longhorn Dam to Lakeshore . Without perpetuating trails and open space conservation in the Austin area, I truly fear for what the future of Austin will look like. Studies have shown that benefits of parks and open space: reduce symptoms of attention-deficit disorder and obesity in children, increase property values; reduce crime, and I don't even have to mention the environmental benefits, All together saving the City billions in funding down the road. Again, please consider at least \$175 million for Parks and Open Space. I understand these are tough choices, but please understand that my generation, my children,

and my grandchildren are the ones who will be forced to live with your decisions. Please make the right choice! Thank you!

- "I am happy to see the public transportation system and the parks and pools are gems in the city. I refer specifically to Deep Eddy and Barton Springs, but the whole parks, trails and aquatics departments are awesome and hope they will be included in this bond issue.
- There is a trend that I find distressing and that is the diminishing of affordable housing. A person with income enough to feed, clothe and house a hundred families buys up a small property, bulldozes a perfectly adequate dwelling and builds a mansion, driving up property values and driving out residents of lesser means. It seems there would be a more equitable way to address this issue.
- Recycling and green energy are important issues that I am so happy Austin Energy is addressing.
- Water and clean air are yet to be taken to the table and are probably beyond the consideration of this particular bond issue.
- This is a wonderful city. Thank you for your efforts to keep it that way."
- "I wanted to follow up regarding my earlier email from this morning.
- Austin is designated as a Bronze-level community (see link below) due to the city's commitment to education and encouragement, targeted enforcement, and strategic evaluation efforts.
- Attached you will find Austin's Walk Friendly Application and Report Card forwarded to me this afternoon by Nadia Barrera (her contact information below).
- <http://www.walkfriendly.org/communities/community.cfm?ID=59>
- total amount of bond package is too high; give priority to sidewalks and less to urban trails; increase funding to cemeteries to \$4 million but for irrigation of trees; eliminate \$15m for waller creek; give priority to parks not in downtown
- Ground swell for infrastructure improvements to NW/ acquire open space/relieve traffic downtown.
- Very important to balance infrastructure expansions w/ renovating what we have (esp. parks).
- Leverage bond money!
- (2.) I will happily pay a 3 cent tax increase to support the bond. I understand that it will add hundreds of dollars to my tax bill, and I don't mind! I'm proud this great city.
- Please consider the impact that higher taxes will have on EVERYONE. Most low-income people have not weighed in but their concerns about affordability affects us all. Thank you!
- The downtown area has been granted a disproportionally large amount of the bond compared to the neighborhoods and other areas, considering the populations of these areas compared to the downtown area.
- First & Foremost--thankyou to all the volunteer hours spent by the citizen taks force. (1) I am very concerned that the city evaluate their ability to maintain the capital projects they are undertaking in the proposed bond package. (2) For example: the proposed funding for the Elizabeth Ney at \$500,000 is inadequate. The project will require the Crating and removal of the works of art in order to perform the work of protecting the structure & HVAC. Trying to piece the project in places is NOT cost effective! Also the deferred maintenance on the cemeteries needs to be done.
- 2. I also ask that you to consider whether a larger bond package would rerstrict the city from raising its O&M tax rate sufficient to meet ever-increasing needs.



Please give this to the joint task force:

- ① The amount of bond package is too high  
I can't afford any more tax increases.  
In addition, city staff won't be able to keep up with the additional work.  
~~Approve~~/recommend \$100-200M max this year, review bond package next year, etc. - Little by little, not all at once
- ② Give priority to sidewalks and less to urban trails - People need sidewalks in many of the poorer & farther neighborhoods.
- ③ Increase funding to cemeteries to \$4M but for irrigation of trees (heritage) as a priority, as the stakeholders supported strongly - Not to remove dead trees because that is only \$175k per bid from arborist.
- ④ Eliminate \$15M for Waller Creek - let the conservancy raise that money.
- ⑤ Give priority to parks not in downtown, because those can be supported jointly by developers while many parks don't have anyone to help them. Thanks!

Zoila Vega, AHTF

**The Dougherty Arts Center will be closed and all or part of it will be demolished to remediate the Landfill discovered underneath it in 2007. It is not a matter of if it will happen but a matter of when. The timing of the closing is not necessarily dictated by the City.**

**The question at hand is whether enough funds are allocated for and there is enough time rebuild prior to that happening.**

**If this task force recommends enough money to accomplish the replacement, if the council approves the amount and if the bonds pass**  
**It will take 3-4 years from today minimum to have an operational replacement**

**Even if all that happens, it is possible the facility will be closed down prior to a new one available to replace it...time is of the essence.**

- The DAC has 200,000 people including 20,000 children participating in their programs each year.
- It is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest revenue generator in the Parks Department
- There are programs and/or events at the DAC from 10am -10 pm 7 days a week.
- Many replacement locations are not suitable because of the volume of participants, the hours and inadequate parking.
- PARD has been looking for replacement facilities since the 3 million dollar bond package in 2006...before the additional environmental problem discovered in 2007. However, the funds were grossly inadequate to accomplish its purpose.
- Part of the funds was used to initiate a study on the cost of replacement and remediation in 2009 which was completed in 2010 after the additional problems were discovered.
- It was determined that a new bond package would be sought sufficient to accomplish the task and the remaining funds were reallocated to other pressing problems.

Result and conclusion from the investigation were that it would take 6.6 million to construct an industrial type facility that would be of comparable size and handle the existing programs. It would take an additional 1.7 Million (a total of 8.3 million) to demolish the existing structure and remediate the landfill. Note: This amount was scaled back in the report to the committee to 4 million in anticipation of a cooperative effort for the DAC's replacement which will not happen since the site proposed has very recently been deemed unsuitable.

Note: This is pricing as of 2 years ago. Oil prices have increased construction cost dramatically since then. It also does not allow for the acquisition of a building site and preparation of the site if a suitable parkland location is not possible. The site location might require the need a more expensive foundation cost depending on soil conditions. Changes in EPA & State regulations could greatly drive up the cost of demolition as well as many unknown factors encountered when remediating the landfill.

**With all these possible factors we are suggesting that a minimum of 10.3 million be recommended (which would include 2 million additional) to cover these variables. Otherwise we might go through the whole process and not have enough to do the job 3 years from now.**

**Additional Information:**

- The EPA is concerned about the environmental impact from the 1920's landfill discovered to be under the DAC around 2007 after conducting an investigation.
- Landfill is next to a creek that feeds into Lady Bird Lake presenting a concern about contamination. The landfill will have to be remediated at some point.
- There are additional concerns with the existing structure built in the 1940's. These include asbestos, lead, and methane gas from the landfill
- The city has implemented the maintenance and operational restrictions and installed methane gas monitors per the EPA
- The drilling through the slab to install methane monitors per the EPA was not done due to release asbestos in the process.
- The children's playground where lead was discovered in the soil was closed
- The city has been notifying participants of the relevant facts since then.

**There are 30,000 plus people moving into the Austin Metro area each year and the DAC is already inadequate for the demand**

**Each year when it opens registration for the new season and line forms around the building and the season is booked in a matter of hours.**

**Even if the EPA , State or court order doesn't close the DAC prior to the completion of this process, We owe it to the community and children to provide an adequate and safe facility as soon as humanly possible.**

**If you have additional questions;**

**John Faulk  
689-4242 Cell  
338-1919**

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Bergan Casey, Inherit Austin  
John Rosato, Landmark Commission  
Mike Ward, Pioneer Farms

STAFF  
Jacqui Schraed  
*Executive Director*

April 23, 2012

Bond Election Advisory Task Force  
City of Austin, Texas  
Sent via e-mail

Dear Task Force Members,

The Heritage Society of Austin (HSA) is writing this letter in response to the recent news that funding for two projects in the proposed Bond package have been drastically cut. We encourage the Task Force to fund fully at their requested levels the projects for the Elisabet Ney Museum at \$1.25 million and the city's historic cemeteries at \$4 million.

The proposed project at the Ney is the third phase of work called for in the 2008 Restoration Master Plan. This phase of work addresses near term needs including the installation of a new climate control system, supplemental interior lighting, basic building envelope repairs, and site enhancements. The work will follow the completed subgrade waterproofing and upcoming reroofing of Ney's studio. All of this work will provide a space that is securely protected from the elements, including appropriate climate control and lighting for the unique, irreplaceable, and valuable collection of Ney's works housed in her studio. This work is a necessity to maintain the landmark building and collection and to provide comfort for visitors to this world-renowned museum.



HERITAGE  
SOCIETY OF  
AUSTIN

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A total of \$4 million has also been requested for cemetery renovations. To our knowledge only \$1 million has been included in the bond recommendations. We urge you to reconsider this recommendation as well, in light of the fact that cemeteries in Austin have been persistently underfunded. Proposed cuts to funding for this work will threaten the growing momentum and high profile accomplishments of Save Austin's Cemeteries since its inception in 2004.

The cost of inaction on either of these line items will be far greater than providing the requested funding today. If these sites are allowed to suffer without addressing the deferred maintenance, a serious threat is posed to the cultural and physical history of Austin. Investment in both projects represents a commitment to preserving the history of Austin and is an investment in our future. The Ney Museum and our city cemeteries are not just notable historic sites. Both contribute to local character and economy by attracting people and the dollars they spend, as well as contributing to our overall quality of life in Austin.

For that reason, in addition to many others, we strongly urge you include \$1.25 million for the Elisabet Ney Museum and \$4 million for City of Austin cemeteries in the bond recommendations that you are preparing presently.

Sincerely,

John Rosato  
President



### **Preservation of Historic Cemeteries in Austin**

- Cemeteries are important keys to Texas' past. They are reminders of settlement patterns and reveal information about historic events, religion, lifestyles, and genealogy.
- Austin's many historic cemeteries including Austin Memorial Park, Evergreen/Highland Park, Oakwood, Oakwood Annex, and Plummers Cemetery.
- Several cemeteries in Austin like Oakwood and Oakwood Annex are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- There is resident interest in seeing cemeteries protected, as evidenced by the MLK Neighborhood Plan from 2002 that listed among its top 10 action items getting Plummer Cemetery designated as a city landmark.
- Save Austin's Cemeteries (SAC) was formed in 2004 to advocate for improvements to Oakwood Cemetery. Since then their efforts have extended to five cemeteries where the organization documents the existing conditions, performs research, and advises the City Council on cemetery needs.
- SAC has been successful at securing support and grants from foundations as well as the National Trust for Historic Preservation that gave a matching grant in October 2007 to support efforts to restore the Oakwood Cemetery Chapel.
- The Texas Historical Commission operates an RIP Guardian program that connects volunteers with opportunities to help preserve cemeteries in Texas.
- Popular TV shows such as Who Do You Think You Are and websites such as Ancestry.com are promoting a new-found appreciation for the history found in cemeteries throughout the nation, and spurring major interest in genealogy nationwide.
- In a national context, Boston's Freedom Trail links together several historic sites in Boston including notable cemeteries like the Granary Burying Ground. The Trail generates an estimated \$1 billion in spending annually.
- Cemeteries are a historical legacy for future generations that must be preserved as a historical resource, to help people better understand where they came from.



### **Elisabet Ney Museum: The Intersection of Historic Preservation and the Arts**

- "Formosa" was completed in 1902 by Elisabet Ney who had moved to the United States from Germany in the 1870s. Ney was renowned in Europe for her work sculpting many important figures, including the King of Bavaria.
- At Formosa, Ney completed works that can be seen in the Smithsonian and the U.S. Capitol, as well as the State Capitol and the Texas State Cemetery.
- The Elisabet Ney Museum was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972 and is being considered for designation as a National Historic Landmark for its connections with women's history. There are only two other NHL's in Austin - the Governor's Mansion and the State Capitol - and fewer than 2,500 sites nationally.
- The Elisabet Ney Museum is also designated as a City of Austin Landmark, a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, and a State Archeological Landmark.
- The National Trust for Historic Preservation named the Elisabet Ney Museum as one of thirty-two sites nationally to participate in its prestigious *Historic Artists' Homes and Studios* program.
- The museum houses a collection of works owned by UT's Harry Ransom Center, which include paintings, completed stone sculptures, and plaster sculptures used as models for Ney's stone carving work.
- The museum staff assembles regularly revolving exhibits related to Ney.
- The museum has an average of 10,000 visitors a year, and features regularly revolving exhibits that attracts tourists from the U.S. and abroad.
- Local school curriculum and UT art curriculum include sections on Ney with field trips to the museum. Seasonal events draw large crowds to Austin.
- The museum was granted to the City of Austin in 1941, though no major construction projects were undertaken by the City until 2009.
- The City of Austin was awarded a \$250,000 grant from the National Park Service's Save America's Treasures program in 2003. This was matched with \$250,000 of city funding. This helped to fund a Restoration Master Plan that was completed in 2008.
- The first phase of restoration work was completed DATE and included below-grade water-proofing of the structure and partial landscape restoration. The second phase of work is set to begin this Summer and will include replacement of the roof.
- The proposed next phase of restoration work will include a new HVAC system, improved lighting, and building and site improvements and is proposed to cost \$1.25 million dollars.
- Cultural facilities and events enhance property values, tax resources, and overall profitability for communities. In doing so, the arts become a direct contributor to urban and rural revitalization.